

# New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 • August 1996



Detail of mural by Kenneth Huerta, part of the *Go Unnoticed* exhibit at the Galería de La Raza, See Page 20

PHOTO: EUGENE KETTER



PHOTO: VICTOR NAVARRETE

## Dreamin' on Bartlett Street

by Victor Miller

THE MISSION'S scattered-site gallery of outdoor art has a new acquisition, at 21st and Bartlett Streets. "Dream," a work by noted muralist Daniel Galvez (who did the Carnival mural at 24th and South Van Ness Streets) was unveiled July 23 at a festive ceremony attended by Mayor Willie Brown, who said, "This is a very good piece of what San Francisco is all about."

The new 16- by 20-foot work on the

east side of the Bartlett Street Parking Garage is the seventh in a series of murals along the 21st Street commercial corridor. The series reflects a new spirit of vitality in the area. Only a few years ago, the Bartlett Street garage was featured on CNN because it was the haunt of sometimes violent individuals who encamped on top of the garage's large ventilation ducts and who were known as "Duct Devils."

The west side of the block-long ga-

Continued on Page 9

## After 20 Years on the Market

# Mission Armory is Sold

Use of \$2 million once slated for community purchase now uncertain

Mission Broadsider by Andrew L. Solow

THE MISSION ARMORY has been purchased for \$1.25 million dollars (with a down payment of \$250,000) by the San Francisco Partnership of Posztos and Associates.

However, \$2 million in federal funds originally earmarked for development of the Armory are unaccounted for.

The buyer's broker, Dennis Andrews of Mill Valley, said that Posztos and Associates, a syndicate of people who invest in income property, are planning to do a major rehabilitation of the Armory. "There are a number of viable potential uses and the principals are examining the various possibilities, but they haven't decided which one to go with yet," he said. "They are planning to maintain the building as a historic structure and they have no plans to put a homeless shelter in the Armory."

Hopefully the new owners will make up their minds soon. Almost anything would be better than the current eyesore known as the Armory.

### A Brief History

The Mission Armory has been vacant for at least 15 years. Since the early 1980s, it has been the focus of numerous rehabili-

tation schemes, which have imagined turning it into a shopping mall, a movie studio, a homeless shelter, a drug rehabilitation center, and a free commercial space for non-profit agencies. Estimates of the cost to rehabilitate the cavernous, hulking structure have ranged from as little as a few million dollars all the way up to \$35 million dollars. But until now, no one has ever done anything except talk about the Armory.

Continued on Page 3

## Cyclist Meets Jackalope



Solo cyclist Mary Brown, See Page 15

# WHAT FATE FOR OLD MISSION COP SHOP?

PAGE  
8



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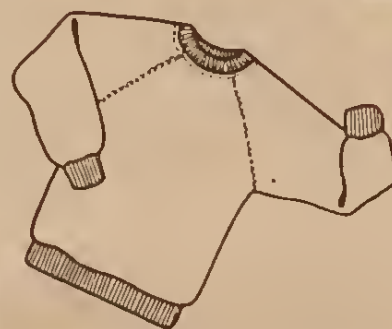
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## Armory continued from page one

Located at 14th and Mission Streets, the Armory was completed in 1914. It was built as part of the Presidio Complex and served as military barracks and as a school for roughly 700 men. It also served as a hedge against any civil unrest that the "radicals" and "subversives" of the day might foment.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places and designated a City Landmark, the Armory was declared surplus property by the state legislature in 1980 and was offered to the city for one dollar during the Agnos administration.

The Armory consists of three primary spaces: a four-story administration building along Mission Street, a large, open drill court, and a full basement. The exterior structure has four octagonal corner towers and a rough brick surface with long, narrow, slit windows. The administration building was designed as a Spanish-style fortress with an attached barrel-vaulted "drill court."

The Armory's 190,000-plus square feet of enclosed space housed everything from tanks and howitzers to horse stables, a gym, and even an indoor swimming pool. With its 77-foot high ceilings, the 168-by-235-foot drill court was easily the largest assembly hall in San Francisco prior to World War I.

In 1980, John M. Sanger and Associates' "Mission Armory Reuse Study" concluded that a complete renovation and upgrade of the Armory for use as a multipurpose facility would cost \$14 million. An additional study done in 1989 by Mattison & Shidler proposed to convert the Armory into a movie studio. But nothing was ever done because nobody ever had enough money to renovate and upgrade the large building.

A December 1994 inspection of the Armory found that the building's roof leaked like a sieve and its plumbing and wiring were pre-World War I. After being abandoned for more than a dozen years, it was full of asbestos and it did not meet

current requirements for seismic strength.

However, the building's structural components are basically sound. Depending upon whom you talk to, for somewhere between \$2 million and \$35 million dollars, the Armory could be renovated and converted to one of a variety of uses.

### Where's our money?

At the end of his administration, Mayor Art Agnos withdrew \$1.6 million from the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) Revolving Loan Fund and gave it to the Mission Armory Foundation. The money was ostensibly to be used for renovation of the Armory. Current members of the foundation's board include: Georgiana Hernandez (president) of Arriba Juntos, Rich Sorro (vice president) of the Mission Hiring Hall, Ricardo Alva of the Mission Language & Vocational School, Margarite Gee of the Mission Reading Clinic, Gonzalina Morales of Horizons Unlimited, Rita Alviar of the Mission Education Project, Daniel Hernandez of the Mission Housing Development Corporation, and Raquel Medina of the Mission Economic Development Corporation.

Georgiana Hernandez, president of the Mission Armory Foundation (MAF) and executive director of Arriba Juntos, said, "The Armory Fund currently contains more than \$2 million (the money is on deposit in a joint MAF/City account). The original grant was for a project like the Armory, but the money is not specifically tied to the Armory. The only money that has been spent out of the Mission Armory Fund so far was in the form of short-term loans of \$200,000 to Centro del Pueblo and \$15,000 to Centro Latino."

Hernandez also indicated that MAF is currently looking at a large economic development project in the Mission that would *not* involve the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA). But she

declined to describe the MAF's latest economic development project and did not return phone calls at press time.

### The Mission Armory Foundation

According to Bob Gambol, SFRA's deputy executive director of finance, authority for disbursement of the Mission Armory funds has always been vested in the Mayor's Office, not the Redevelopment Agency. Kent Sims, the former deputy executive director of economic planning and development at SFRA, has been the custodian of the Mission Armory Fund for several years. But now that Sims has been fired by SFRA Executive Director Clifford Graves, Gambol was unable to say what person or agency now has the authority to disburse the funds.

According to David Bracker, former vice president of MAF (and the Mission Hiring Hall's alternate delegate), last year Kent Sims approved the plan that MAF submitted to him. He then gave MAF the authority to start spending the UDAG money sometime in 1995.

Ken Sims's account of the situation is as follows: "There is not yet an approved plan for the reloan of UDAG loan repayments to the MAF. MAF was coming down the home stretch last fall with their plan, but they were being required to put themselves at arms length from the decision. The city would not allow any agency represented on the MAF board to

receive a loan from the fund unless the fund was administered by a third party.

"MAF then talked to the Northern California Loan Fund, a non-profit that does 501.c3 eligible loans, and NCLF agreed to run the fund based on a set of objectives created by MAF. MAF also wanted to do an affordable home ownership program with a small amount of the money in collaboration with an entity already involved in making loans of this type. I was having these discussions with MAF on behalf of Mayor Jordan. But now there's a new Mayor.

"The Mission Armory Fund never had anything to do with the Armory. The UDAG money was given to MAF for community purposes in the Mission conditional upon MAF's ability to create a plan that the city could approve under the conditions of the MAF agreement: the contract between MAF and the city. The money is controlled by the mayor, and the mayor must sign any agreement between MAF and the city before any funds may be released."

I only hope that Mayor Brown takes the \$2 million bucks away from the MAF bunglers who have spent the last four years trying to find a way to "loan" the money to themselves and their friends. Who knows? Maybe the mayor will build us something useful with it like an elevated public parking structure at 22nd & Mission with a 500-car capacity.

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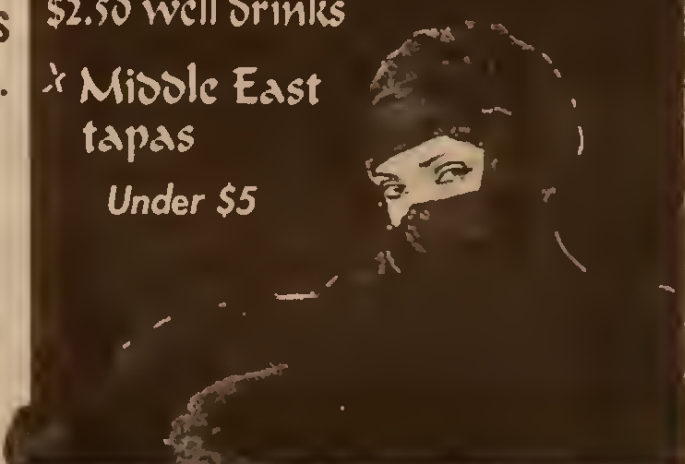
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Fax: (415)695-2838 • E-Mail: VMILLER@lever.com

Editor-in-Chief.....Victor Miller

Associate Editor.....Bronwyn Neol

Writers....Victor Miller • Elizabeth Plott • Andy Solow

Mory Brown • Brian Doohon • Willie L. Brown Jr.

D. Michael Spero • Kurt Bier • Frank Deodbeot

Adom Sovetsky • Eileen Noonkester • Cameron Shaw

Robert Forijo Soto • Wolter Gómez Quintanillo

Photos.....Victor Novorrete • Cindy Rogin

Eugene Kettner • Dan Fox • Cameron Shaw

Front Page/Calendar Design.....Novarrete-Alazán



# Housing From Hell Targeted City, Community Groups Take Aim at Slumlords

by Brian Doohan

A bevy of private and public initiatives are being applied to several Mission district buildings that have long posed health and safety threats to tenants and their neighborhoods.

Recently, plans to take action on the worst of the neighborhood's residential hotels were announced by a collaborative of nonprofit agencies that are seeking to influence the impact of several notorious buildings, most of which are located on the heroin-drenched blocks of Mission Street adjacent to the 16th Street BART station. The collaborative, a program of the San Francisco Enterprise Community, hopes to bring up to code and stabilize these properties. The nonprofits hope that a recent settlement between the City Attorney's Office and a notorious property owner will serve as an example of the pressure that can be brought to bear against sleazy property owners, and influence a few of the worst violators to consider getting out of the Mission while they can.

The community organizations will target at least four Mission residential hotels for improvement, with or, if necessary, without the cooperation of the hotels' management.

The effort includes Mission Housing Development Corporation (MHDC), San Francisco SAFE and two social service agencies with a predominately low-income, Spanish-speaking constituency: the St. Peter's Housing Committee and AYUDA.

St. Peter's hopes to help make sure hotels are brought into compliance with city codes; AYUDA will work with formerly homeless people and those who are at risk of being homeless, securing support services to keep them from going back out on the streets or contributing to the downward progress of the buildings they live in.

## Sticking It To Velasco

The organizations will also provide support for rehabilitation and management overhaul in MHDC's recently acquired residential hotel, the Altamont and the Apollo Hotel which MHDC is in the process of purchasing. Both are located near 16th and Valencia.

Balanced against the carrot (or bread, from the expression "la pan y la porra") of a more stable tenant base is the stick of

code enforcement, wherein the repeated attentions of building inspectors, police, firefighters, the Health Department, and the City Attorney's Office are directed at those who were, in the words of former Assistant City Attorney Ilene Dick, "frequent flyers," owners of buildings with multiple, longstanding problems.

Karen Carrera, who now holds Dick's position, cited the case of Virginia Velasco, which was settled last month, as an example of "la porra."

Velasco, owner of an estimated 23 properties, was taken to court on charges related to six of those properties. Charges included gross negligence, including illegal subdivision of single family homes in order to house 80 to 100 people, in the four worst cases.

Tenants at these properties -- 1033 Hampshire, 2770 Bryant, 2915 26th Street, and 1333 York Streets -- will be relocated at Velasco's expense. Carrera stated "I feel very proud of the fact that we required relocation under the state code."

St. Peter's has been enlisted to facilitate the transition of tenants to other temporary or permanent shelters. Spokesperson Gloria Lopez called the Velasco buildings "an important test case" and told the *New Mission News* that St. Peter's has already begun notifying tenants displaced by the demolition of illegal units that they have a right to receive moving expenses and up to four months' rent as compensation.

"We're helping tenants to overcome their fears," said Lopez, noting that in the current post-Proposition 187 climate, non-English-speaking tenants often fail to pursue benefits to which they are legally entitled.

Velasco must now bring her six properties, the four named above as well as 1473 Florida and 666 Precita, up to code by correcting a total of 46 listed violations in the settlement agreement she signed July 11. If she does not, she will face additional penalties of \$500 to \$2,500 per day per violation. Carrera said the city settlement does not preempt the right of tenants to file their own civil actions.

Carrera, who attended a May meeting of some Mission Street hotel owners and community leaders said that the city attorney has prepared a list of do's and don'ts for hotel managers and owners. Although some of the items were obvious -- perhaps even condescending -- the document suggests "weekly (!) garbage removal" and



approaching "fearful or angry" persons such as drug dealers and the mentally disturbed "slowly and with open hands." The list at least represents an attempt to specify conduct that might otherwise bring down "la porra."

## City Solidarity?

According to Carrera, at least three of the worst hotels in the "Devil's Quadrangle" area of 16th and Mission are presently complying with the city attorney's program. Whether they continue to do so will probably hinge on their perception of the city's resolution to keep up the pressure.

Already there are some perceptible cracks.

The still volatile District Attorney's Office has not yet made its presence felt -- especially in the many cases involving blatant criminal activity ranging from assaults on tenants to narcotics and weapons violations.

And the California Alcoholic

Beverages Commission (ABC) has also been largely missing in action from the Mission, where the woes of residential hotels are often compounded by liquor stores and bars (although Carrera did tell the *New Mission News* that the ABC has become involved in a joint venture on an out-of-control building on Eddy Street in the Tenderloin). Further support, moral or otherwise, has been notably absent from the Board of Supervisors.

(This could change with the approach of November's elections; the *New Mission News* will attempt to pinpoint the sentiments of incumbents and challengers, and encourages Missionites to attend candidates' forums and ask them tough questions.)

The community groups are nonetheless determined to make a difference. According to its Mission statement, "With more recalcitrant landlords, the collaborative will not hesitate to organize tenants, neighbors, and city departments to pressure the owners/managers of poorly run hotels."

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# Rent Strikers Hit A Home Run

## Determined Tenants Get Repairs, Free Rent, Justice

by Kurt Bier

Sherry Petersen and Gatsby Contreras sit in the living room of their comfortable one-bedroom Mission District apartment. Embers glow in their fireplace, electric lights illuminate the apartment's white walls, the toilet and faucets have running water, and heat pours from vents in the floor -- amenities taken for granted by renters throughout the city. But Petersen and Contreras do not pay rent. They have not paid rent for over a year and a half.

Contreras leafs through a fat folder full of legal documents: faxes, certified letters, and reams of correspondence, the detritus of one of the longest ongoing rent strikes in San Francisco. A well thumbed handbook of tenants' rights lies on the table. "We didn't want to do this," Petersen began, referring to the rent strike and the endless legal wranglings it has entailed. "We just wanted to live in a safe, well-maintained home. But it didn't happen that way."

Indeed, when she and Contreras moved into the apartment in October of 1992, they thought they had found the ideal situation: a spacious apartment, a large back deck, and space for a garden met their needs perfectly. Soon after moving in, however, things turned sour. They learned that the landlord lived in Florida and took little interest in maintaining the property, that repairs were few and far between, and that maintenance workers came and went almost weekly.

More serious than the cosmetic dilapidation were the lack of heat, the illegal unit upstairs, the termites, and the water that poured down from the leaky bathtub in the apartment above their bedroom. After numerous unheeded requests for repairs, the tenant occupying the other half of the house began a rent strike.

California Civil Code 1941.1 states that a landlord must insure that his or her property contains certain standard characteristics, one of which is heating facilities maintained in good working order. If this provision is not met, 1942.2 states that it is illegal for a landlord to charge rent.

Petersen and Contreras, like most tenants, were not aware of these laws. "All we knew was that repairs started getting done in the other apartment," said Contreras. "That's when we decided to strike as well." After consulting the Tenants

Union, the two sent the landlord a list of repairs necessary to bring the apartment up to code. Under the provisions of the Rent Ordinance, passed in 1979, and the Civil Code, a landlord has 60 days to make general repairs, after which time tenants are not obliged to pay rent. For heat, a fundamental right, 48 hours are allowed. When the landlord failed to respond to their demands, Contreras and Petersen began withholding rent, placing the money in an escrow account.

"We had to show we could pay the rent to have any legal standing," explains Petersen. Nine months later, their landlord went bankrupt, a fact Contreras does not feel responsible for or necessarily happy about. "She was heading down that road already. We didn't want to... put her under, we just wanted to live in a decent place."

During this time, an inspector from the Department of Building Inspection corroborated their claims and issued violation notices, citing in particular the lack of heat. And in May of 1995 the DBI did something extraordinary: they installed a central heating system themselves, an \$18,000 project. They passed these costs along to the landlord.

Jim Faye, the tenants' lawyer, said, "I can't remember ever hearing of the DBI doing something that substantial." Still, a leaky ceiling, termites, and an illegal unit remained as thorns in the tenants' sides.

The property was put on the auction block. "There were suits everywhere trying to get a look at the place," Contreras recalls. "There were even some gopher suits trying to get under the fence." What she and Petersen perceived as a lack of respect for their privacy continued when ownership of the property reverted to the mortgage holder, Home Savings of America, and management went to Remax, a property management firm.

Soon after the transfer, Contreras and Petersen received a letter from the new landlord suggesting they make arrangements for the payment of rent. They faxed him a list of repairs that needed to be done before they would discuss rent, and so began a long series of correspondence and bilious exchanges over how the repairs were to be made. The lawyers for Home Savings, Vlahos and Vlahos, sent a letter to Contreras and Petersen threatening eviction, but one fax enumerating the numerous code violations ended their involvement.

The Civil Code requires a landlord to

contact tenants 24 hours in advance to schedule repairs. According to Contreras and Petersen, the property manager would call the night before to make arrangements for repairs, or would simply show up unannounced. They found this unacceptable. Property manager Clay Dunkin disagreed, calling the tenants "uncooperative." Whatever the case, slowly the repairs began.

A traditionally unresponsive DBI assisted Contreras and Petersen throughout the process, detailing with great precision what work needed to be done to get the apartment up to code. "He was great," Contreras said of their inspector. "He made sure we didn't get screwed."

Faye believes his clients' unflagging determination had something to do with that as well. "They documented their case very well, an immensely important detail

often overlooked, and they were very good about asserting their rights." Faye also noted that since the conversion of the BBI to the DBI, inspectors have been "a touch" more aggressive in field inspections, and they seem to be moving more quickly to penalize unresponsive landlords.

"Yeah, it's been hard," said Petersen. "We just want to pay rent and get on with our lives. But we couldn't let them walk all over us. We have rights."

The property has been sold again, and the tenants have yet to hear from the new owners. With the repairs nearly completed, all that remains is a final inspection officially abating the violations. By law, the money placed in the escrow account will be returned to the tenants; rent cannot be collected until the inspector signs off on the repairs.

## Worm Guys Strikeout



Photo by Victor Navarrete

Worm-box mogul Fred "Uncle Wiggly" Pastor reports that health- and Rasta-oriented Yahoo Herb n' Ecology, located at 968 Valencia Street, has lost its long running battle with the landlord and will be closing up shop this month. "We'll be back," vows Fred, pictured left.

## In the On Deck Circle, Radical Women

A few blocks north, Radical Women is contesting eviction from Freedom Socialist Hall at 523-A Valencia, the group's home for 13 years. According to their press release, Radical Women faces an August 31 eviction unless they agree to pay their Marin County landlord double their current rent. They're asking our readers for support in fighting the eviction. For more information, call 864-1278.

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# WORKING CAPP

The four-block stretch of Capp Street between 16th and 20th Streets is known to some as "the Track" or "Ho Stroll." For years, this mean street has been the end-of-the-line working place for dozens of prostitutes, supporting their addictions to heroin and other drugs. This year has been an especially tough one for Capp Street prostitutes: two of them were abducted from Capp Street and then murdered, and fliers distributed in local cafes describe a third near-fatal abduction. *Clostridium sordelli*, popularly known as flesh-eating bacteria, was linked to Mexican black-tar heroin. This year about 20 cases of the fast-spreading infection -- which can result in death or the need to amputate a limb -- have occurred in San Francisco.

Paradoxically, 1996 has also been a year when Hollywood's romanticization of the world's oldest profession reached its zenith and when heroin became a chic drug in certain circles. As the stories of Marilyn, a Capp Street prostitute; Brenda Escobar, an outreach worker for the Iris Center, a women's multiservice organization; and police officer Nancy Guillory show, life on Capp Street is not chic, and it doesn't imitate art.



Photo by Cindy Ragin

Marilyn has worked as a prostitute for most of the last 10 years. She has worked on Capp Street for the last four years. Born in Brazil, Marilyn came to this country when she was five years old. She grew up in Mountain View in a middle-class family with a sister and two brothers. An unplanned pregnancy led to a marriage while she was in 10th grade. The marriage ended in divorce two years later. A boyfriend introduced her to heroin in the early '80s, and she quickly became addicted. Her son now lives with his father in Northern California; ever since he was seven, Marilyn has been barred from seeing him because she is a drug addict. Now 35, she works Capp Street, because like all the other women on Capp street, she needs to support a habit.

NMN: How did you start out in this work?

Marilyn: The first time I did it, I made \$40 in 10 minutes. At the time I was working for General Electric making five bucks an hour. It would have taken me all day to earn \$40, and [with prostitution] it took me 10 minutes. I thought, "This is great."

I was able to maintain my job, but my addiction escalated. My habit got bigger and bigger because I was able to get more money. It's like a revolving door: you live to use and you use to live. You use so you can go to work, and you work so you can use. Most of us [prostitutes] can't make it out there unless we have some kind of mood-altering substance in us, and the reason we're working is so we can put that mood-altering substance in us.

I worked the Tenderloin before coming down here, which is kind of a demotion. Once you've hit Capp Street, you've pretty much hit rock bottom.

NMN: In the last year, two women have been abducted from Capp Street and murdered. That must be very frightening for you.

Marilyn: One of them was a friend of mine, Shelley. But that's how strong the addiction is. I've been held at gunpoint, I've been held at knife-point, I've been raped, I've been sodomized, I've been beaten, I've been kidnapped.

I was kidnapped by this pimp in San Jose who held me in a trailer in the San Jose hills and kept me pretty well sedated. He would bring clients over and I would tell these guys, "Hey I'm trying to get out of this." And these guys he'd bring over would be on PCP or [would be] just out of the penitentiary -- guys that didn't give a fuck. He and his girlfriend would both rape me every night. When I finally got

him to believe I was going to go along with the plan [to work for him], I got a little more freedom, and once I got out that door I just ran for my life.

Abductions aren't common. Rape is very common and [so are] beatings. There's a lot of that that I hear about quite often.

The police pretty much tell us about the abductions; they're pretty good about that. They'll come around and talk to us girls... If there's a description, you know they'll tell us who to watch out for.

NMN: Do police crackdowns make a difference?

Marilyn: They'll bust you. You go to jail. It's an inconvenience that you have to sit in jail for 10 or 12 hours, [but] you go right back to the streets. A lot of guys will hang out by the jailhouse because they know a lot of us girls get busted. I've gotten lots of dates as soon as I've gotten out of jail.

NMN: Do you always practice safe sex?

Marilyn: No. It boils down to [this]: you're dope sick and you need a date and you need to fix real quick, and the guy doesn't want to use a condom, and he's willing to pay an extra 10 bucks. You know, [you] do it. I've done it and a lot of the girls I talk to out there say they've done it too. When you've got a jones and your body's ailing, shit yeah, you're gonna do it.

NMN: Is heroin pretty easy to get?

Marilyn: The dealers know where we work. They call it the 'Ho Stroll, the Track. They see us getting into a car and say, "We'll see you when you get back." And they make a point that we can find them. Once you get into prostitution for drug reasons that's pretty much where your mind is at. When I'm with a customer I'm already in my mind -- before the guy has even finished -- thinking who am I going to cop from, where am I going to fix. I'm even thinking where's the last vein I hit. You want him to come real quick and drop you off. It's like a reward.

NMN: What about crack?

Marilyn: Crack has really screwed up prostitution. I remember when I was paying \$65 for a quarter-gram of heroin down here when I first started -- so that's what dates were going for: \$65 to \$100. Now with this crack, girls are dating for \$3 to \$5 or just a hit of crack, so the guys start expecting that.

And I know of middle-class guys from the suburbs who drive up here in BMWs, married guys with family responsibilities, who spent their whole weekend with me and blew their whole paycheck -- eight or nine hundred dollars -- smoking crack. They don't know where to get drugs but they know we do.

NMN: How do the Mission Street hotels fit in?

Marilyn: They are all about money. It's anywhere from \$25 to \$35 a night, and every guest you bring up there is \$5 and overnight guests are \$10. There are certain hotels that you can use as, you know, just the room for \$10 for half an hour.

NMN: How hard is it to get out of this life?

Marilyn: Most of us, we pretty much hate the way men come on to us, like we're just a piece of meat for them to get their rocks off, but it's the easiest way for us to support our habits.

I've had some sobriety periods. The last one was in South Dakota for two months. Prior to that I stayed clean for two

and a half years. I worked for Neiman-Marcus as a sales associate in the cosmetic department, and I went back to Brazil for a year.

I knew another girl who went to Walden House stayed there for 18 months and went to work for the DA's Office with that program they have, the John School. But she came back and had a relapse and was out here for almost a month.

They always come back. At first you see them on the weekends. And they say, "Oh, I'm just doing it for today." Before you know it, you start seeing them during the week and before you know [it], they've lost their jobs, spent all their money, and fucked everything off.

I know one woman: she works the streets, her daughter works the streets, and her granddaughter works the streets.

It's not just the drugs, although that's a major part of it. You kind of get used to living in that fast lane you were in, that instant gratification, instant cash, instant rush when you fix.

I used to be a hallerina. That was my dream: to be a prima ballerina. And I ended up on the streets of San Francisco shooting dope and smoking crack.



Photo by Cindy Ragin

For the last two years, 24-year-old Brenda Escobar has been an outreach worker for the Iris Center, a Mission District drug- and alcohol-recovery service center for women. A native of the Mission, Escobar attended City College and then went to work for the Real Alternatives Program, where she focused on gang-related youth problems. She has also worked with the Brown Institute, a Mission multipurpose nonprofit.

NMN: What kind of work do you do with prostitutes?

Escobar: I work at 16th and Capp. I go out giving out condoms, lube, dental dams, and information about safe sex and how to clean their needles if they're using heroin. Me and the other two outreach women I work with will spread out and go to different areas, or the same area depending on if there's a lot of women. And I'll just go up to them and say, "Hi, I'm Brenda."

A lot of the women already know me, so they'll come up to me and ask if I have any condoms, and I'll give them as many as I can give them. Then we'll talk. I'll ask, "How are you doing? How are you feeling? Did you just get out of jail?" "Yeah, I just got out of jail. I'm thinking of going back home." "Really, where?" "To New York."

But I still see them in the coffee shops. I'll sit down and say, "Do you go to the Needle Exchange? It's just for women; it's at the Dolores Street Community Center. It's an inside site." I tell them about our support group. I ask them "Is your health OK? Have you taken an HIV test? How long has it been?"

And they ask me questions about safer sex. When we talk about HIV, they'll say things like, "Well there's some women that'll probably not use a condom; how about if I don't use a condom? If I'm doing oral sex with someone, can I get HIV doing that?" And I'll have to tell them the risks and explain every little detail. The main focus is harm reduction. That's our thing.

NMN: What is the support group?

Escobar: The Iris Center has a support group here on Valencia Street on Wednesdays. You don't have to be clean, so it's a lot of the women I do outreach to. I tell them to come in and they get a voucher for Burger King just for coming in, and I give them clothes that are donated. It's just a place where they can come in and feel nobody's asking anything from them, to just come in and talk. And they've been coming. A lot of women out there know about the group.

NMN: How many women are working Capp Street, and how many of them are HIV positive?

Escobar: If you go out there in the morning there are five to eight women; if you go there after 1 p.m. there's more like 15 or 20. I would say there are about six or seven HIV-positive women out there that I know of, probably more.

NMN: What other type of health problems do these women have besides AIDS and VD?

Escobar: There's a lot of abscesses [women get] from shooting up. And there was this new problem [flesh-eating bacteria] that was attacking the heroin users that were shooting up with the tar. The abscesses were eating out their skin.

NMN: What about abductions?

Escobar: When I talked to the women out there they told me they're not getting the attention some other women would be getting if this kidnapping had happened. Things like that happen all the time... [For example,] a woman will be kidnapped for a couple of days and then I'll see her a week later, and I'll say, "Where were you?" and she'll say, "Oh, some guys took me and raped me, and I just got back." And I'm like, "Are you O.K.?" It doesn't seem to faze them. They're like, "Well... yeah." Things like that just happen.

NMN: Do most of these women want to stop prostituting?



**Escobar:** They do; it's just that it's so hard to do it and they don't have the support [to do it]. There's a lot of people who don't want to take the time to just sit down and help these women because these women don't have any money. They have money only enough to pay for their hotel and their habit.

It's really hard. Every woman I've talked to always wants to stop but there's not someone there to help them out. And there's some really really deep family problems that they need people to talk to about.

I'd like them to stop because so many of them are so smart. I've learned so much from them. They have a lot to offer -- there's just no one to tell them they have a lot too offer. And if they could get a helping hand to help them through, I'm sure they would quit.

**NMN:** What if prostitution were legalized?

**Escobar:** They would still be out there

because they're doing it for their habit. It's more a drug problem. They don't want to sell their hodies, but that's how they support their habit. And no one's going to hire them for a job because of the way they're looking. A lot of women tell me, "What am I going to do? Work for McDonalds, nodding out because I'm on heroin, having to go fix in the bathroom and then go back to work? I can't do that."

**NMN:** How do you feel about your work?

**Escobar:** Just working and doing the outreach blew my mind, [seeing] how women out there survive. I've heard so many stories and seen so many things. This job has been really, really great. I've learned so much.

You know, everybody needs somebody to help them, and that's what I do. I help these women. When I go home at night I feel very gratified.

in terms of clients, although we have gotten a few professional people in that area, you know, trying to pick up prostitutes.

In the Mission [the clients are often] Hispanic males, whereas in the Tenderloin there's more of a mix -- a lot of local guys and some from the East Bay.

**NMN:** Do you arrest them?

**Guillory:** I have two cover officers. [When] I'm out on Capp Street the cover officers are in a doorway somewhere to see what's going on. And as soon as I've made my case, I run my fingers through my hair: that's the bust signal as we call it. Then they move in.

Normally what we do is cite [the johns] if they don't have any warrants. If they're not wanted and or if they have a driver's license and some California identification, we don't need to bring them to the station; they can leave. It takes approximately 10 minutes to go through the process: to cite them and admonish them -- tell them that this is wrong and that if you're seen back here again you will be booked.

**NMN:** Do you think this makes an impact?

**Guillory:** I feel it does. I think for people who don't really pick up women on a regular basis, it does scare them off and it keeps them from coming back again. But who's to say about people who have done this for years and want to continue to do it... It's a long time act that's been going on and I feel that we can deter some people that do it.

And for the women that need drugs this is the only way they have to... make the money to get them... [Prostitution] is what they choose to do so they'll keep on doing it, and there will be men who keep picking

them up. But we're trying to clean up the Mission District a little bit, and every little bit, I feel, does help.

**NMN:** Do you have much direct contact with the women?

**Guillory:** I have [had contact] a couple of times. I don't think they even know I'm a police officer. I'm cordial to them if they want to talk to me or I'll talk to them and then I move on, but on Capp Street it's every woman for herself.

**NMN:** Have any of the johns ever gotten violent with you?

**Guillory:** No, everyone knows what they have to do. There hasn't been much resisting at all; we haven't had to get physical in any way. I know some [police]women have experiences where things get physical and people try to take off and [the policewomen] have to go chase them.

**NMN:** Would legalizing drugs or prostitution change things?

**Guillory:** Personally, I don't think legalizing heroin would be the answer. There's always something else that women need, and so [following that pattern] would [mean] legalizing something else after that. As far as legalizing prostitution, [prostitution] would go on too much and if people weren't safe about it, it would really harm them, with AIDS and everything.

**NMN:** How do feel about the work you are doing?

**Guillory:** I'm hoping that it will make a difference.



Photo by Cindy Ragin

**Officer Nancie Guillory, 31, works Capp Street as a police decoy. She has the "cut," athletic look of somebody who has lifted weights for 14 years. Her physical fitness and her upbeat, relaxed manner make her totally unlike many actual prostitutes. Nonetheless, she has been quite successful in her efforts to nab potential johns. On a typical morning, July 5, she and her partners cited six men for solicitation of prostitution in a two-hour period.**

**NMN:** What's your background?

**Guillory:** I was born in San Francisco [and] raised in San Mateo. I have three children, and I'll have been married 10 years this September. Before becoming a police officer I was a volunteer for the San Mateo Fire Department for two years. Prior to that I stayed home and raised the children when they were little. This [police work] is something I always wanted to do -- I just took the time out to raise my family. My plan was to start at the age of 21, but I got married at 20 and had

my first child at 21. So I kind of took a detour... to settle other things, and here I am.

**NMN:** How long have you been a police officer?

**Guillory:** It's been a year since June. I graduated the academy in December and started working vice in February. The company that I was with asked me if I'd like to do it on an overtime basis to get some experience. I've done it in Hayes Valley, at O'Farrell and Taylor and at Post and Larkin in the Tenderloin, and in the Mission on Capp Street.

**NMN:** How does Capp Street compare with the other areas?

**Guillory:** There's always worse, but from what I hear Capp Street is a pretty low place to go. Twenty dollars is standard, whereas in the Tenderloin you get up toward a hundred.

Capp Street is a less professional area

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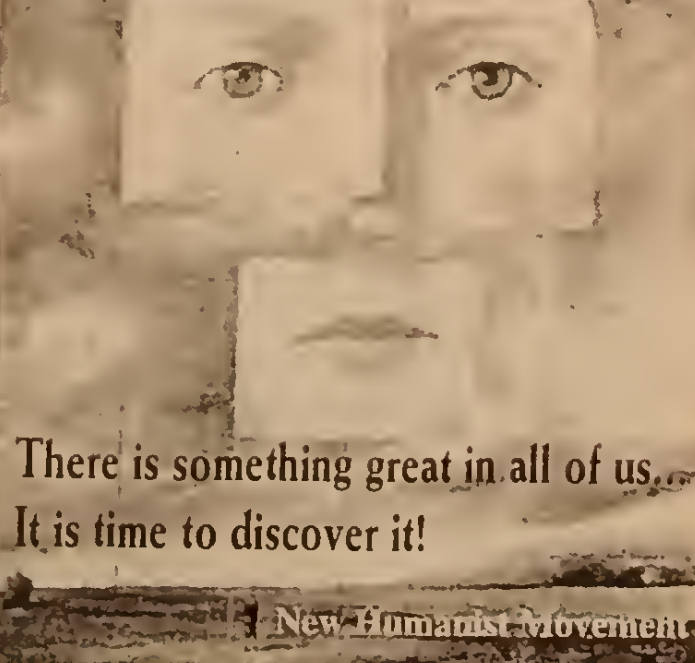
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the

Grassroots

report

By: D. Michael Spero

What fate city real estate?

Mayor Willie Brown has created a task force that will evaluate city-owned real estate in the Mission and determine which properties will be kept, which sold, and which renovated and turned into multi-service centers.

There is no shortage of good ideas. A half dozen agencies submitted proposals for the abandoned police station on Valencia between 22nd and 23rd Streets; ideas included turning it into a homeless shelter, a job training facility, an urban farming area, a counseling center, and a recreation building.

"Rather than focus on one building and set up a competition between good proposals, we decided to spend a little more time and decide a real estate strategy for the Mission, where hopefully all these plans can work together," said Mayoral Special Assistant Ana Cortez.

At a July 8 community meeting at Bethel Church, advocates for transforming the old station elaborated on various proposals for its use. By Mission standards, the meeting was respectful and productive, even with the usual chorus of "We weren't informed" voiced by some activists and agencies. The mayor had stated that if the community could agree on a proposal, he would back it. (If the Mission ever agrees on a proposal, of course, the Kingdom of Heaven will begin.) Some exciting ideas came from Dolores Street Community Services, the Day Laborers Program, the Salvation

Army, the J.S. Pough Foundation, and other groups.

After the meeting, though, the Department of Public Works (DPW) turned in an estimate for the cost of renovating the building: \$3.4 million.

The old station's biggest problem is the roof, which leaks so badly that police used to keep dozens of buckets handy for when it rained, according to Permit Officer Jim Ludlow. "When we left, the paint was peeling off all the walls and ceilings, and the basement was a mess," Ludlow said. With the building needing extensive work, and with there being a lack of adequate space for worthy programs, the mayor assigned Cortez, City Architect Gary Hoy, Harlan Kelly of the DPW, and staffers from other departments to review all the city's Mission District holdings, including the abandoned fire station and some commercial property.

Commercial Value

One option is to sell the property off. The police station, which still has a For Sale sign in the window, has garnered several offers. One potential buyer, an architect who turned in a bid of around \$400,000, addressed the community meeting. Given the cost of renovation and the potential income from sale, the city may well sell some properties.

But the Mission has other needs that require keeping the buildings, say many service agencies. A proposal from Puertas



Photo by Cindy Ragin

Abiertas (Open Doors), a coalition sponsored by the Day Labor Program, includes the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, Habitat for Humanity (the home-building group that former president Jimmy Carter is involved in), the Jamestown Community Center, and some environmental organizations. The idea, said Program Coordinator German Martinez, is "to bring communities together. We were building this coalition and drafting our proposal before the building was even abandoned."

The Day Laborers, currently located in Franklin Square Park on Hampshire Street, have sought an indoor home for five years. They provide referrals, education, and job training in addition to running the Dispatch Center, a kind of day labor union hall. "We really need a building near Cesar Chavez and Mission, where the laborers go to get hired," said Martinez.

Puertas Abiertas brought in the Bicycle Coalition because "they are trying to get bicycles in the city. Third world countries traditionally use a lot of bikes, and they're cheap transportation," said Martinez. "We brought in Habitat for Humanity because we want to emphasize housing and home ownership. We included the green groups to bring more communities in, and because our open spaces are not being adequately used."

Homeless Shelter Farm

The proposal from Dolores Street Community Services (DSCS) emphasized the need for a shelter catering to homeless immigrants. "We want to house 40 to 50 of the city's neediest people and provide classes and counseling to help get them off the street," said Director Esperanza Macias. DSCS currently shelters 70 adults a night, but turns away about 80 more. DSCS's proposal included letters of support from religious groups, businesses, and other service providers.

In addition to the daytime services, Macias plans to collaborate with Fresh

Start Farms to put commercial gardens on the roof and grow mushrooms in the basement. Fresh Start's previous garden, on Divisadero, employed 10 people, according to founder Ruth Brinker. Using the old police station for urban farming could provide part-time jobs for shelter residents. "Nobody else wanted the roof or the basement," said Brinker. "We can probably coexist with any of the other proposals."

The J.S. Pough Foundation, one of the few U.S. foundations run by African Americans, wants to put a multiservice center on the site. Although Puertas Abiertas and DSCS are both soliciting outside donations for help with remodeling costs, the Pough Foundation's proposal includes more provider financial input than the others. The Salvation Army proposes to run a youth center on the site, while Liberty Hill resident Hilda Bernstein recommended that a committee of providers, residents, and officials come up with a multiservice plan.

The shelter plan and the Puertas Abiertas plan may be the most feasible ones for the old police station site. The shelter hours would have to be limited, but, said Martinez of the Day Laborers Program, "many of the people DSCS serves at night, we serve in the day."

Hopefully, enough space and city resources will be found to make more than one plan a reality. Although the property review sounds like a bureaucratic nightmare, it will be finished by September, according to Cortez. (Of course, she has 20 or so other projects to do at the same time.)

For more information on possible uses for city-owned property in the Mission, or to get involved in any of the valuable programs mentioned, contact: Mayoral Liaison Ana Cortez (554-6699), the Salvation Army Mission Corps (1156 Valencia, 648-0260), Dolores Street Community Services (938 Valencia, 282-6209), the J.S. Pough Foundation (439 Guerrero, 664-1454), or Puertas Abiertas (the Day Labor Program, 252-5375).

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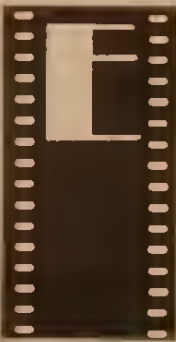
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## Mural continued from page one

rage is now slated to become the canvas for some of the Mission's most ambitious art projects: as soon as time and resources permit, murals will be placed on the garage. The effort is being spearheaded by Mission Merchant's Association president Chris Collins, the Mission Economic Development Association (which vanquished the "Duct Devils and now operates the garage), the Neighborhood Beautification Fund, and the San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic.

"Dream" honors human rights heroes Rigoberta Menchu and Cesar Chavez, as well as the spirit of creativity. The colorful two-foot frame around the mural was painted by Mission District youth working under the direction of Galleria de la Raza's Edward Rodriquez.

Unlike all other Mission murals, "Dream" is bolted to rather than painted on its wall, allowing the work to be moved to another location if necessary. The logistics involved in mounting the new mural were complicated and time-consuming, but considering that it is not uncommon for murals to be destroyed or painted over when their buildings are altered or change ownership, the efforts were worthwhile.

For information about planning the



Mayor Brown and artist Ruth Osawa unveil "Dream" Photo by Victor Navarrete

second Bartlett Garage mural, call Mission Merchant's Association president Chris Collins at 641-4924.



## 16th Street Block Party

by Adam Savetsky

Stand at the corner of 16th Street and Valencia any day or night and note the cross-section of humanity passing before you. With its colorful mix of shoppers, merchants, hipsters, loafers, home boys, homeless people, cops, and eccentrics, there is not a more diverse corner in the city. In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find one within hundreds of miles.

In the spirit of this diversity, the second annual 16th Street Block Party kicks off at 2 p.m. on Saturday August 10 and lasts till 10 p.m. If it is anything like last year's event, the sidewalks and businesses between Valencia to Guerrero will be alive with the sights, sounds, and tastes that have made this block a unique and popular destination for both Mission residents and nonresidents alike. Like last year, the block party will focus on the area's local diversity and multicultural funkiness.

In contrast to the multitude of street fairs that are held in many San Francisco neighborhoods every summer, the 16th Street block party is a purely indigenous, grassroots effort with all the food and entertainment flowing directly from the residents and merchants of 16th Street. Block Party organizer Rudyard Wallen of Ti Couz stresses the theme of the day: "We keep everything local. Merchants find their own people to perform and the performers are right here from the neighbor-

hood. Also, we don't get involved with the usual street fair sponsorships, like alcohol or tobacco, for instance."

With the merchants providing all the food and selecting the talent, the diversity and integrity of 16th Street cannot help but rule the day. Performers will populate the sidewalk throughout the afternoon and evening. Maya Taqueria, for instance, will host The Teokuli Aztec Dancers. Truly Mediterranean is bringing back the belly dancers who proved to be such a hit at last year's event.

Some of the other scheduled acts include the gypsy musicians Bohemia, hip-hop acid jazz artists Tiger Balm, stripped-down experimental street band Rube Waddle, progressive jazz and rhythm meister Dan Kane, pyromaniacal sound artist Scot Jenerik, the Middle Eastern rhythm-and-blues group Black Earth and Laughing Child, techno-industrial group Gravity, and the jazz-meets-country stylings of Orson County Lines.

Flavors you can expect to sample on 16th Street include Breton Crepes at Ti Couz, tapas and Spanish food at Picaro, Mexican treats at Maya Taqueria, Middle Eastern delights at Truly Mediterranean, multi-Asian cuisine at Grandeho's Hibachi, bagels at Katz and Thai fair from Malai Thai.

Other popular establishments that will participate in the festivities include Mission Grounds, Kilowatt, and Dalva, which will host a deejayed dance marathon.



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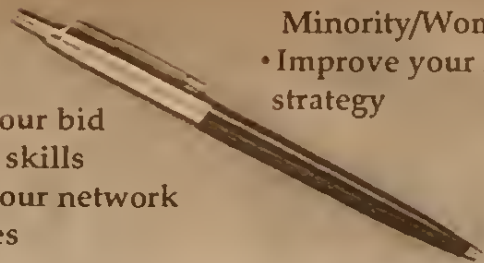
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## The Food Bank Needs You

The San Francisco Food Bank is on the verge of dramatically increasing its ability to feed the hungry by building a new, larger warehouse for food storage and distribution, but they need your help. "Alleviating hunger improves the overall health of the community, and cities thrive and prosper," said PG&E president and CEO Robert D. Glynn, discussing the planned expansion of the food bank. The utility company donated the land at 23rd Street and Pennsylvania Avenue upon which the new \$5 million warehouse will be built.

San Francisco Food Bank executive director Paul Ash said that the new Potrero Hill facility, expected to be completed by February 1997, "will double or triple the amount of food we distribute annually." The new food bank will have 55,000 square feet of dry and cooled storage, an expanded agency shopping area, and an industrial-size cooler and freezer. With \$4 million already raised, the food bank needs help from the community to come up with the last \$1 million. To contribute, contact the San Francisco Food Bank at 957-1076.

## So Does The Bone Marrow Registry

After throwing a few bucks into the food bank's coffers, round out a day of heroism by calling the Heart of America Bone Marrow Donor Registry and arrange to donate a little marrow. Leukemia, aplastic anemia, and other blood related diseases claim the lives of thousands of people each year. An infusion of marrow from a matched donor is the only hope for those afflicted with these diseases, and finding a perfect match, even among relatives, is rare. The registry provides a list of donors, and the

longer the list, the more likely a match can be found.

Compatible donors often come from the same racial group. A lack of volunteers from the Latino community significantly lessens a Latino/a patient's chance of recovery. Extracting marrow is a relatively simple procedure, requiring only a short, overnight hospital stay, fully covered by insurance. Call 1-800-366-6711 for more information on how to register. Please, save a life.

## Kids Need An Advocate Too

OK, there is one more tiny thing you can do to help. Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth has announced the republication of its popular guide to volunteer opportunities serving children and youth in San Francisco, *First Steps to Becoming a Child Advocate: Helpful Hints to Make a Difference and Volunteer Listings in San Francisco*. The United States pretty much sucks when it comes to caring for its children; it ranks 18th among industrialized nations in a bunch of

childcare categories, underscoring the incredible hardships endured by our nation's children. This guide lists 175 non-profit organizations offering a variety of volunteer opportunities to work with children and youth. It also includes a 15-page section on how to effectively get involved in the political process in San Francisco on behalf of children. Pick one up, dust off those cleats, and step up to bat for kids. Be a hero.

## Family Health Fiesta

Now you can relax. And what better place to let loose than at the Family Health Fiesta, sponsored by the Community Health Network and the San Francisco General Hospital Violence Protection Task Force. The fiesta will take place on the front lawn of San Francisco General Hospital on Saturday,

August 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Food, games, entertainment, prizes, giveaways, health information and education, and minor health screenings will be available -- whoa, it is going to be a party. Bring the family, get a spinal exam, and enjoy the warm summer sun.

## Creative Work Fund Awards

The Creative Work Fund, a funding initiative launched in 1994 to support creative partnerships between artists and organizations in San Francisco and Alameda counties, has announced a fourth round of funding for visual arts projects. Grants have gone to Creativity Explored, Horace Mann Academic Middle School, Mission Neighborhood Centers, and The LAB. Grants range in size from \$13,500 to \$32,000. Projects

range from painting murals inside the Red Stone Building or the Precita Valley Community Center to exploring "mall culture." At Horace Mann, students will work with photographers to create wallet-size portraits of each student. For additional information, contact Frances Phillips, director of the Creative Work Fund, One Lombard Street, suite 305, San Francisco, CA 94111, 398-4474.



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# Six Shot on Mission Street



Relieved cop holds suspect shortly after Mission Street shooting. Photo by Dan Fox

by Adam Savetsky

On Friday, July 26 at 5:55 p.m., six people -- five of whom were innocent bystanders -- were caught in the crossfire of a shootout on the corner of Mission and 22nd Streets, in front of Leeds Shoe Store. According to SFPD Detective Dan Hance, the shootings were gang-related. Luckily, none of the six victims -- three men and three women ranging in age from 18 to 49 -- were critically wounded.

According to Hance, on Mission Street between 20th and 21st Streets, three young men verbally confronted a fourth man, who pulled out a gun, causing the others to retreat around the corner to 20th Street. Minutes later two of them returned, one on a bike and one with a gun. They proceeded to track down the man who had earlier pulled his gun; the same man then turned and quickly fired

off six or seven rounds. The opposing gunman fired two shots and then ran away.

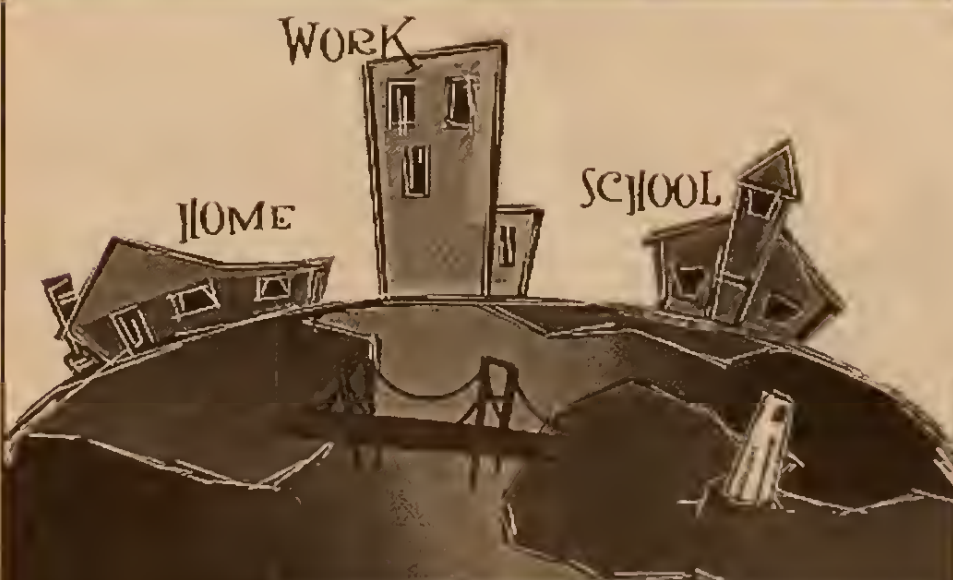
Later that evening, near 20th and Lexington Streets, police arrested the two juveniles who confronted the first, lone gunman. The two are 16 and 17 years old; one of them is cooperating with the police. The other gunman is still at large.

On the afternoon of July 29, a meeting was held at the Mission Police Station to help alleviate community fears surrounding the shootout and gang-related concerns. Captain Al Casciato stressed that the police and the community are working together to stem gang violence. He gave attendees the number of a 24-hour hotline (558-5462) that people can call to report gang activity including gatherings, graffiti, and gang cars. However, anyone who sees concealed narcotics or firearms or a vehicle that has been used in a crime, should call 911.

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# Mission District Calendar

## AUGUST

1

### THURSDAY

**Frog Jumping Contest** - Well sort of, make an ongami frog and see how high it can jump (I bet not very). 3PM, Mission Branch Public Library, 2259 24th St., Free, 695-5090.

2

### FRIDAY

**Hot Times** - Summer Choreography Project in the city, Brady Street Dance Center presents *Dance Nifty*, featuring new works and works in progress by both emerging and established choreographers, Robert Moses, Mae Chesny, e.g. 8:30PM, Brady Street Dance Center, 60 Brady St., \$10-\$12 - sliding, 558-9355, Also Aug 3.

**We Didn't Start the Fire** - It always been Burning Man, since the hippies been a yeamin' clan, a kick off party for *Burning Man*, the Rainbow-People-after-art-school party in the Nevada Desert, lots of weirdness, be normal and really trip everyone out. 7PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., FREE, 824-3890.

**Bust Loose** - Join Cha Cha Chilosa and her colorful compadres as they tour the city in search of her dog Tito, transformed into Dick Del Grande and now performing throughout the city, benefit for Tale Spinner's production of *Rampage*. 9:30PM, The Mexican Bus, Meet at Chevy's restaurant on 4th & Howard, \$25.00, 431-9962

3

### SATURDAY

**Free For All** - Center for the Arts and Luminarias (a new Latino based multicultural theatrical production company) will present *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a site-specific production, I guess; adapted to make a point about something relevant. 6PM, Yerba Buena Gardens, Third and Mission Sts., Free, 641-4369, Also Aug 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18.

**Still Smokin'** - More Burning Dude antics in a film and video festival chronicling the craziness in the hot sun; artcars, the drive-by shooting range, Big Foot, and much more. 8PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., \$5, 824-3890.

4

### SUNDAY

**Affirm Your Fath** - Violinist Josepha Fath, clarinetist Philip Fath, cellist Victoria Erlich, pianist David Saliamonas, perform chamber music and solo works by Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, Brahms, and Bartok. 3PM, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., \$10/\$5, 647-6015.

**Songs, Duets, and Arias** - By Mozart, Strauss, Bellini, and others of their ilk, performed by sopranos Maryam Mahvi and Krista Wigle, and pianist Michael Grossman, he, he. 7PM, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., \$8/\$5.



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5

### MONDAY

**Heart Beats** - Corazon with live house music by SFO Syndicate and Djs Alain and Maucio; sum up: Deep House-Live Music/DJ Dance. 10PM, Elbo Room, 647 Valencia St., \$3, 552-7788.

6

### TUESDAY

**Four Play** - Comedy, yes comedy, in the middle of the week, can, in the proper dosage, relieve tension, or provide an alternate outlet for your ire; four men or four women or three men and one woman, and so on, will entertain, don't know why. 8:30PM, The Marsh Theater, 1062 Valencia St., \$6, 826-5750, Also Aug 7, 14, 21.

**Pet Loss is Tragic, Truly** - Really, nothing funny about it, nope; Dr. Betty Carmack will moderate a free Pet Loss Support Group for grieving pet owners; Render your grief over and done. 7:30PM, SFSPCA, 2500 16th St., Free, 554-3000.

7

### WEDNESDAY

**Toys for Boys** - Jack Davis' popular workshop

for men of all orientations answers your questions about men's sex toys; butt plugs, cock rings, palms, pumps, vibrators, bed sheets, etc. 8PM, Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St., \$5, 974-8980.

**The Middle Passage** - Artistic Director Brenda Way will discuss her way, merging the ways of choreography and composing, another way will be explained by a musical partner, ways demonstrated by ODC dancers. 5:30PM, Community Music Center, 544 Capp, Free, 647-6015.

**Hop to it** - Enter your ell in a long jump contest, ages 5-12, warming-moderately entertaining. 3PM, Mission Branch Public Library, 3359 24th St., Free (except for side bets), 695-5090.

8

### THURSDAY

**Soulvation** - Behind the Post Office presents Djs Aural B, George, and Roman with special guest DJ: = Funk/Jazz-DJ Dance. 10PM, The Elbo Room, 647 Valencia St., \$3, 552-7788.

**Paradox a Comin' Down** - *Inner Limits/Outer Bounds* is an evening of dance, theater, music, and improvisation exploring the nature of bound-

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aries as a necessary hindrance to intimacy, presented in conjunction with Dancers' Group/ Footwork's Bread and Butter Series. 8PM, Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. Aug 8-10, Dancers' Group/ Footwork, 3221 22nd St. Aug 15-17, \$10/\$8, 863-2989 & 824-5044 respectively.

9

## FRIDAY

**The Eternal Flame** - Of *Burning Man* pierces our soul, we must know more about this unique event, please let us see, let us eat the mana from the base of the alternative alter, more burning man stuff. 8PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., \$5, 824-3890.

**Rampage** - Tale Spinner's Theater Company presents the premiere of Richard Talavera's *Rampage*, the humorous rantings of a "wannabe" Chicano in an imaginary world of pornography, two brothers enter the skin trade in an AFTA NAFTA Mexican Hotel. 9PM, The Red Brick Building, 2940 16th St., \$6-\$10, 431-2221, Thru Sep 6.

10

## SATURDAY

**Stop, Drop, and Roll** - And get it over with, the final installment of the *Burning Man* video and film festival, craziness et al. 8PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., \$5, 824-3890.

**I'm Outta' Here** - The American CitiZeNs' Theatre proudly presents *Exit the King* by Eugene Ionesco, a comic, compelling, and ultimately moving exploration of man's struggle with mortality, easy stuff. 8PM Fri-Sat, 7PM Sun, American Citizens' Theatre, 362 Capp St., \$7-\$10, 664-7014.

12

## MONDAY

**Oops** - BayCare Medical Group and St. Luke's Hospital will sponsor a seminar titled "Urinary Changes are Part of Aging," learn how the urinary system changes as we age, what conditions are common and how to cope with these problems. 10AM, 1390 Market St., Ste. 710, Free, 437-4333.

14

## WEDNESDAY

**Brown** - Listen to Margaret Sloan-Hunter read from her first published collection of poetry, *Black and Lavender*, there will be no snacks or coffee. 7PM, Glen Park Books, 2788 Diamond, Free, 586-3733.

**Coffee and Cigarettes** - Vocalist Linda Tillery and pianist Teryl Saunders perform *My Favorite Things*, jazz, soul, blues, and pop selections from the duo's latest show. Reception to follow. 5:30PM, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., Free, 647-6015.

**Going Postal** - Homicide is the #1 cause of death for American women, and the second leading cause of death on the job for men; *Rage*, a work in progress, explores the intersections of class, race, and gender in today's workforce. 8:30PM, The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., \$6, 826-7570.

15

## THURSDAY

**And then We'll Eat Him!!** - The Summer Reading Finale party with a magic/juggling show, featuring Jay the Juggler. 8:30AM, Mission Branch Public Library, 3359 24th St., Free, 695-5090

16

## FRIDAY

**Dry Comedy** - Storm, from the rock group Flower S.F., and a musical score by Dana Colly of the group Morphine enliven *A Holy Promise* by Teddi Dean Bennet, chronicling a young man's hitchhiking journey through the Nevada desert in search of his brother and purpose. 8PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., \$5, 824-3890.

17

## SATURDAY

**Graphic Parts** - Bizarre, extreme, and forbidden feature film clips, shorts, and trailers detail domination, submission, abduction, revenge, death cults, sexual psychosis, brutality, and much more in this orgy of over-the-top XXX cinema. 8PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., \$5 (Children under 7 free), 824-3890.

**Pussy Whipped?** - Cat behavior specialist Kate Gamble conducts this monthly seminar on kitty behavior; she explains how to solve common cat problems, like acknowledging their owners, and answers questions. 11AM, SFSPCA, 2500 16th St., \$10/\$5 if adopted, 554-3000.

18

## SUNDAY

**Truly Otello** - The Opera Ensemble of San Francisco perform the opera *Otello* by Verdi, semi-staged and directed by Monroe Kanouse, featuring Frederick Winthrop, Dvora Djorav, and others. 2PM, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., \$10/\$5, 647-6015

21

## WEDNESDAY

**No, Honey, You Were Great, Really** - Don't be fooled, instead be educated at this workshop covering useful techniques for pleasuring a woman, including touching, pleasuring all the senses, and, yes, communicating about sex. 8PM, Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St., \$20 pre-registration required, 974-8980.

22

## THURSDAY

**AFRO SOLO** - The 3rd annual SF African-American Solo Performance Festival features 12 local artists singing, dancing, reading, and performing; a potpourri of styles and forms, hosted by Dick Gregory, comic and health guru. Various Times, ODC Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St., \$12 per performance, 621-7797 for times and performers.

23

## FRIDAY

**Fundamental Knowledge** - Two widely acclaimed documentaries from New York video artist Jayce Salloum break new ground in the complex genre of journalist documentaries exploring the relationship between Hezbollah and the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. 8PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., \$5, 824-3890.

**Regal Legal** - Composer John Beeman presents his new opera *Law Office*, the proper venue for this noble profession, plus a new vocal work by Carolyn Hawley. 8PM, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., \$8/\$5, 647-6015.

24

## SATURDAY

**Nice People** - Radical Women that is. In celebration of Women's Rights Day they will host a panel of unionists who honor yet want to go beyond the hard-won victories of getting the vote, come listen to women on the front lines of today's continuing struggle for equality. 8PM (6:30PM dinner), Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St., \$3-\$5 (\$8 dinner), 864-1278.

**Animal Dreams** - Be a hero to a small, furry creature by volunteering for one of the many important positions at the SFSPCA; cat socializers, dog walkers, adoption counselors, pooper scoopers, and surgeons among others. 10AM, SFSPCA, 2500 16th St., Free, 554-3087.

**Dewald According To** - Erich, who curates this evening's selection of films entered into the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, a bunch of fun stuff most of us never had a chance to see. 8PM, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$5, 824-3890.

25

## MONDAY

**Up From the Gutter** - The Acton Street Band, Martha Stoddard and her crew, perform in a recital of chamber music for woodwinds featuring works by Barber, Jacques Ibert, R. Strauss-Carp and Glinka. 3PM, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., By donation, 647-6015.

27

## TUESDAY

**Be a Drag** - Or at least dress in it when you meet erotic writer and Circlet Press publisher Cecilia Tan and fellow contributors to two new books on fetish and gender bending, seen through the futuristic lens of science fiction. 8PM, Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St., Free, 974-8980.

29

## THURSDAY

**Balancing Act** - Written by Diane Amos and James Medeflin, the stand up comedian and actress tells her unique, poignant and bless-

edly funny story of being raised in a household with lesbian mothers-one African-American and one Jewish; preview 8:30PM, Thur-Sun, The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., \$8-\$12 preview performances and Thursdays, \$15, Thru Sep 21

30

## FRIDAY

**Locals Only** - Laugh the night away at films made by friendly filmmakers, staring their friends, watched by their friends, independent films of the highest quality. 8PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., \$5, 824-3890.

31

## SATURDAY

**Cinema Bicietta** - In honor of the Cycle Messenger World Championships, come see a bizarre collection of bicycle related materials-films made by local artists and obscure film finds. 8PM, ATA, 992 Valencia St., \$5, 824-3890.

on...

## ONGOING

**Broken Hearts** - At SF Games, play card games and board games each week, no experience needed, non-competitive; spades, hearts, scrabble, etc.; come, be a winner, get lucky 7:30PM every Wednesday, Muddy's Coffeehouse, 1304 Valencia St., 679-3680.

**Hey, Look! Another** - Go on a mural walk through the mission lead by a experienced muralists, participants view over 70 murals in an eight-block walk, an introductory slide show presents the history and process of mural art. 1:30PM every Saturday, Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 348 Precita Ave., \$4/\$3/\$1, 285-2287



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# Da Column

by Willie L. Brown Jr.

## Da Budget



It's easy to become complacent in this most beautiful of American cities. San Francisco's stunning physical attributes, its cultural diversity and tolerance, its educated and entrepreneurial workforce, and its strong commitment to social justice all mean we sometimes believe the world is our oyster.

But at the two-day Economic Summit I convened in April, San Francisco took a good hard look at its economic future. We found great opportunities and great challenges. We also found we have much work to do.

The summit brought together groups and factions that in the past have found little to say to one another. Business leaders from major corporations, small neighborhood businesses, national and local labor leaders, presidential cabinet members, academics, economists, activists, and informed citizens all came to the table. They found common ground for future dialogue.

The event began with a tone of optimism. The AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust announced it would invest \$100 million in three housing and commercial developments in San Francisco. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros announced a \$4.5 million grant for a nine-story affordable-housing apartment building next to Glide Memorial Church in the Tenderloin.

And our speakers kept coming back to three key elements that are necessary to foster a strong economy: 1) a high quality

of life for residents and visitors, 2) a synergy between large and small businesses, and 3) an economic strategy that plays to our strengths.

Together we can accomplish these things. But talk without action is counterproductive. Now is the time to gather the ideas, advice, challenges, and opportunities that emerged from the Economic Summit and put them to practical use.

To that end, I am introducing a five-point action plan, which I believe we must implement immediately in order to build a vibrant, inclusive economy for all San Franciscans:

### 1) Streamline Regulatory Processes

In order to improve efficiency and build a strong relationship between the public and private sectors, I plan to create a new Office of Economic Development that will coordinate and consolidate all economic development functions into a single, central effort. I will appoint an "economic czar" to head this new office, a person with extensive experience and respect in the business community. One of the director's main jobs will be to develop a business retention plan and a more customer-friendly planning and building inspection process.

### 2) Promote Small Businesses

I have recently sworn in a new Small Business Advisory Commission that reflects the diversity of small businesses in San Francisco, and I will soon appoint a liaison from the Mayor's Office to assist

the commission in achieving three goals: 1) creating a small business service center, 2) creating a small business capital fund, and 3) reforming city purchasing procedures so that local firms will have an advantage in bidding for city contracts.

### 3) Stimulate Construction of Affordable Housing

I want to attract investment funds to San Francisco for the development of affordable and market-rate housing, which is a major building block to a healthy economy. To that end, I have placed on the November ballot a bond measure that will provide \$100 million for affordable housing. If passed by the voters, the AFL-CIO National Housing Trust and some major banks have indicated a willingness to match all low-interest loans coming from that bond. A portion of these funds will also be used to help San Francisco firefighters, police officers, and teachers purchase their homes in the city.

### 4) Stimulate Growth Among Current Businesses and Encourage New Enterprises

We will tap into the wealth of brainpower of our citizens and retain existing

jobs while creating new ones by identifying growth industries such as multimedia, bioscience, movie making, and advanced technology, and by identifying new business development sites such as Treasure Island, the Presidio, and the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. We will also take a look at creating special enterprise zones, and we will study demonstration projects in other communities.

### 5) Coordinate Job Training and Job Placement

To consolidate job placement and training programs, I propose the creation of a single clearinghouse for the wide array of services available. I will direct the departments of Human Services and Public Health; the Redevelopment Agency; the Mayor's Offices of Community Development and Children, Youth, and Families; and the Private Industry Council to consolidate all their separately funded and administered job training and placement programs into a single one-stop facility. I will also create a city employee retraining program that will allow our cityworkers to more easily move into new assignments when current ones become obsolete.



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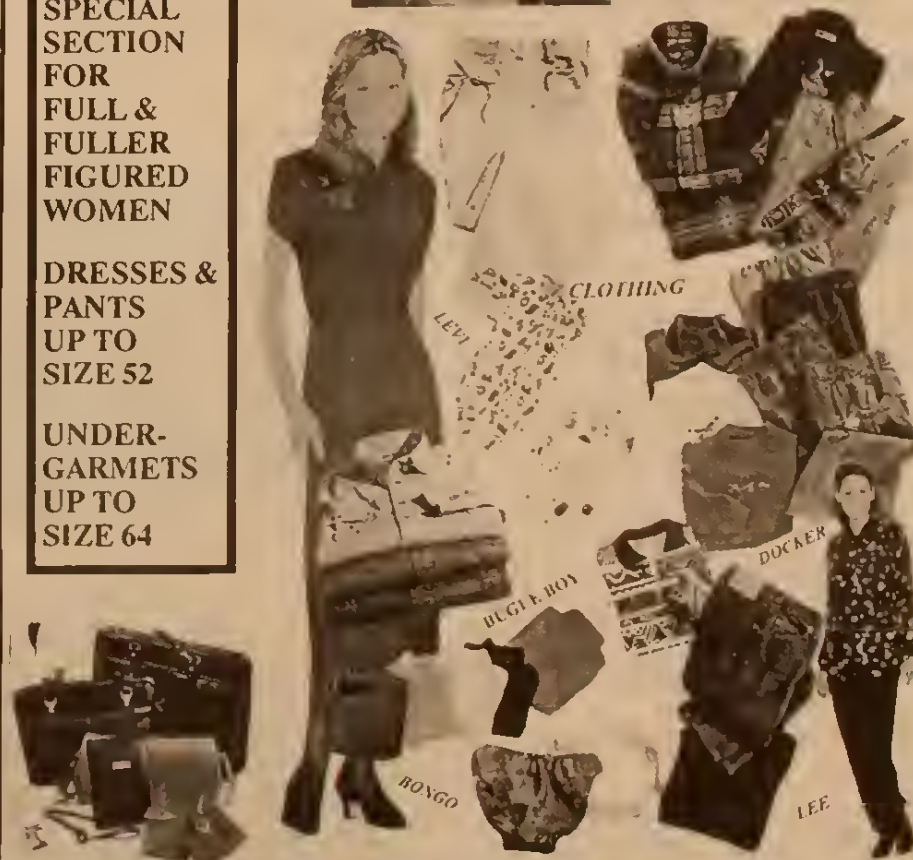
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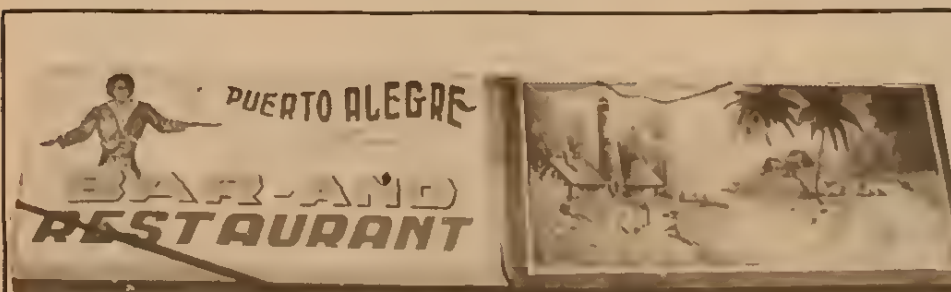
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## The Big C to Sea Tour

## Almost Halfway to the Big Apple



Our intrepid correspondent.

by Mary Brown  
(faxed from the La Junta, Colorado Police Station)

My bicycle ride across America is only halfway over, but already I dread the end of this trip. I've gotten used to seeing the world framed by my bike's handlebars, and I've grown to love that funny feeling of unfamiliarity with everything and everyone.

Although the focus of the Big C to Sea Tour across the country is to advocate for and organize with young adults who have cancer, I feel strangely detached from and slightly ambivalent about the current state of my own cancer. There is still a grapefruit-size mass in my chest that restricts my breathing and keeps me from

going any faster than a steady plod, but I've really never felt stronger or healthier in my life.

When I first pedaled out of San Francisco two months ago it was the first time I had been truly alone since my diagnosis of cancer in November of 1994. At fist I was extremely paranoid camping by myself. At night I'd gather an impressive arsenal of sharp rocks and sticks in the front of my tent to be used against any possible attack. I was even afraid of getting attacked by a cow.

But the worst things that have happened are getting punched in the leg by a double-amputee in a wheelchair, getting flipped off by a truck-driving cowboy, and getting honked at by a truck with a David

Duke bumper sticker. (There seem to be quite a few Nazis and cowboys in Colorado.) In fact, the only genuinely terrifying night I had was during my first lightening storm at a campground in southern Utah. Lightning bolts struck every few seconds, and the thunder became one continuous roar. The air felt electric. After much terror and little deliberation, I ran from the tent in my underwear to the outhouse, where I crouched on top of a plastic toilet for half an hour half expecting to be struck, wishing I could die with more dignity.

Another scary thing about Utah is that it's filled with tiny towns populated by exceedingly clean but not-so-friendly Mormons. I felt there was a large P (for Pagan) branded on my forehead. On the bright side, Southern Utah was lacking in the chain stores and fast food outlets that choke so much of America.

There were, however, a shockingly high number of souvenir shops that featured "authentic Indian artifacts," along with neon-pink rabbits' feet, Daniel Boone coonskin caps, plastic Indian figurines, fake scalps, and framed scorpions. Perhaps the most impressive souvenir for sale was a taxidermically stuffed jackrabbit sporting antelope

horns and chicken legs. And of course there were the charming life-size Indian dolls, which looked a lot like corpses, that were placed outside of most of these shops.

A few nights ago I went to my first rodeo out here in eastern Colorado (which is really just another way of saying western Kansas). I was practically the only female without a sash and title, and I was definitely the only one not wearing tight jeans and a poofy, glittery blouse. It was here that I discovered the target market for Wrangler jeans.

A rodeo is no picnic for the animals involved, but I must admit that I kind of enjoyed goat-tying, cow-wrestling, and general hooting and hollering. I especially liked the bull riding because it's one of the few macho sports involving animals in which the animal usually wins. I also felt a strong kinship with the cowgirls, whose rumps are probably as sore as mine is.

This bike ride is an amazing experience for me on a personal level, but I've also received a tremendous response from the cancer communities I've visited. It's clear that younger people with a cancer history need and want the support of their peers, and I am excited to be part of this emerging community.

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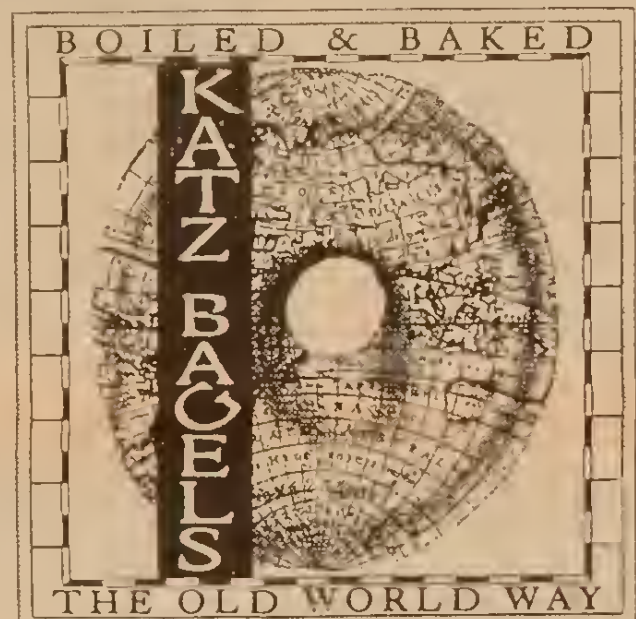
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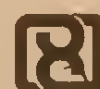
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# In Another Country

## Sushi Station Still Special

by Victor Miller

The Mission may be a rapidly changing neighborhood, but some of its more delightful old haunts are still with us. Despite the passage of time and occasional changes in management, they retain their special Mission cosmopolitan cachet and local character.

Case in point: Country Station, our longest running sushi venue. Although in 1995 the *Bay Guardian* gave Country Station "The Best Place to Eat Sushi While Listening to Country Music" honors in its "Best of the Bay" awarding blitz, I recall hearing country music played there only rarely. The former chef did wear a cowboy hat, but that was about it.

When I asked new owner Hiroko Tamano why the restaurant seemed to play only rock and roll she explained, "After the Beatles, the world had only one country, and that country was rock and roll." I guess I'll settle for that, but maybe Hiroko was putting me on.

The chairs and stools in the place all bear the names of the very first customers. When they were first inscribed some years back, I had been delighted to find one labeled "Victor." But the previous owners insisted it had been named for another Victor. Deeply offended, I tried to discover my namesake's identity, but my hosts became vague when closely questioned. For years I showed up at Country Station at odd intervals hoping to catch the usurper and, you know, exact justice, but to no avail. Perhaps my sushi stool doppelganger was a myth. Maybe the rock and roll explanation was whimsy, but just as love without mystery is paired tedium, dining out without mystery is merely MacDonald's.

Both Hiroko and her husband Koichi, Country Station's chef, have toured the world for the past 17 years performing with their own Butoh company. They've won awards (some of which adorn the



Hiroki, right, and Koichi, left, with friend and co-worker. Photo by Cindy Ragin.

restaurant's walls), and have taught Butoh workshops on college campuses, and will be playing at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in January. On a recent visit to Country Station, Hiroko played me a videotape of the couple's Oberlin College session. Butoh is a very theatrical variety of dance characterized by exaggerated body motion and an intensely gothic, dark emotionalism. It is a very serious undertaking; Wagner would have loved it.

On the brighter side, one of the finer points of Country Station is its frolicsome atmosphere. With its blinking Christmas tree lights, dangling papercuttings, eclectic book collection (subjects included Dilbert and the Blackfoot Indians), wedding photos pressed beneath a glass table top, quirky collages placed inside some of the menus, and, through a half-opened Dutch door, sunlight pouring in and all the Praetorian guard of the Mission's multicultural strangeness floating by, surely this is Lewis Carroll. The Butoh video continued to unfold on the screen; the two

atmospheres gleefully coexisted. The resolution of this conundrum eluded me, but it was time to eat.

For the straight-on sushi experience try Country Station's combo (\$9.50). It includes tuna, shrimp, mackerel, squid, octopus, and egg and tuna/cucumber rolls.

The fish is all very fresh and tasty, but a word of caution: Country Station's rolls already have a bit of wasabi in them. So when you're mixing up that green hot stuff with the soy sauce, be conservative in dosage or you'll firestorm every sinus cavity in your head. Then again, this is an experience some folks will seek out. My dinner companion resolved the wasabi problem with what she called the "Mountain Meets the Sea" technique: plopping down a big glob of wasabi on the edge of a pool of soy sauce in the mixing saucer and then gradually blending the mixture as each piece of sushi is consumed. I was properly horrified at the blobby mess and insisted that the wasabi be stirred in all at

once, creating a dark greenish liquid into which each sushi selection is lightly dunked. For this I was accused of being a "wasabi wimp." For a slightly more exotic treat, try the sea urchin and quail egg roll (\$3.55). And be sure to order a salad made from the mixed greens of the Kona Kai Fresh Farms in Berkeley(!). It's very light and offers a nice change from usual the boring lettuce, lettuce, lettuce offerings at most restaurants.

The cooked dishes we tried were all excellent. The vegetable tempura (\$6.00) was crisp and delicious and was arranged, I thought, to look like the alien in *Independence Day*, but that observation may have been the result of too much hot sake. We also ordered some udon (thick noodle soup) of the chicken kara age persuasion (\$6.25), which means deep-fried chicken. We were alarmed at the deep-fry aspect, but Hiroko very good naturedly agreed to substitute boiled chicken, which proved to be tender, plentiful, and delicious when enhanced with hot pepper. The chicken teriyaki (\$7.50) is also very good and comes with salad and miso soup stock. If you're into it, there's always room for that palatine change of pace at the meal's end: cool, minty, green-tea ice cream (\$2.50).

All the chicken selections at Country Station are organic Magnani Farms products, and the rest of menu is based on filtered water, kelp soup stock, and brown sugar.

Country Station is a very warm and charming place, which is beautifully reflected by the prayer on the cover of its menu: "Thank you Mother Earth/ I accept and adopt your gifts/ Your gifts will thrive through my body."

Country Station is located at 2140 Mission, near 17th Street. It's open Tuesday through Saturday for lunch 12 to 2:30 and for dinner Tuesday - Thursday 5 to 10, Friday and Saturday 5 to 11. Call 861-0972 for information and catering.

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# Segovia's: A Marriage for the Mission

Nonprofit and for-profit partnership prospers

by Eileen Noonkester

Patrons who enjoy a great meal at Segovia's (formerly the Cola Cabana) contribute directly to Centro Latino de San Francisco, a service organization that has helped the Mission for 25 years. The non-profit organization has formed a business partnership with Dr. Robert Cenicerros, a local dentist who owns Segovia's and the Andora Inn. Cenicerros has carved out this piece of the Mission, near 22nd Street, as an up-and-coming part of the neighborhood. The Centro Latino has arrived just in time for Cenicerros to continue his vision.

It was only last April that *The New Mission News* reported that Cenicerros was about to lose his life savings over the Andora Inn and Cola Cabana business ventures. The Andora Inn is a hotel above Segovia's, and the Cola Cabana is the bar inside it. Both have been attracting customers, but despite Cenicerros's having put over a million dollars into renovations over the years and creating what Mayor Willie Brown has labeled "The jewel of the Mission," the good doctor wasn't getting the crucial night-time business for the restaurant, and he was forced to close.

Although Mission cafes, thrift stores, and bars enjoy the financial benefits of local post-collegiate types doing "the Valencia Street crawl," restaurants have a more difficult time attracting new customers.

The Centro Latino, meanwhile, adds running Segovia's to their long list of ongoing programs and projects. Among the main services provided by Centro Latino are nutrition programs for seniors. These programs offer low-cost lunches, served at Centro's headquarters at 15th and Julian, and nutrition classes. The nutrition programs also provide a "meals-on-wheels" service, in which meals are brought to people who are unable to leave their homes.



At the festive grand opening. Photo by Cindy Ragin.

Centro Latino also prepares legal residents for their citizenship test and assists with the INS application process. A third project, Escuela del Pueblo, provides tutors during the school year for high school students who are having trouble with core courses like math, English, and history.

With the addition of Segovia's, the center plans to create a small culinary school with about 10 students who will use the restaurant kitchen after hours. The student chefs will learn general cooking skills.

Centro Latino and Dr. Cenicerros have created what they call the "perfect marriage" between a business and a non-profit organization. Under the new partnership, Centro Latino will run Segovia's, sharing

space with Dr. Cenicerros's bar, Cola Cabana.

Centro Latino anticipates the arrangement will provide new opportunities to create jobs and offer job training with the new restaurant, while the Cola Cabana gets a second chance to turn a profit.

Segovia's currently serves Latino and California cuisine. Crab enchiladas are moderately priced at \$7.95. Cola Cabana Kebabs range from \$6.95 to \$8.95. Premium entrees include the "Jewel of the Mission" Filet Mignon.

The new partnership was celebrated at Centro Latino's 15th Street headquarters last month. In an unusual way to seal a business deal, a symbolic marriage was performed to illustrate the union between the two organizations. Would-be groom Robert McDaniel, manager of the Andora Inn, sported a tuxedo and promised to love, honor, and obey Centro Latino's representative bride, Gloria Bonilla, who wore a wedding gown and veil. After the wedding ceremony, the cake cutting, and a toast, the entire wedding party, mariachi band included, made its way to the Andora Inn to continue the celebration.

Members of the procession commented on the spectacle of what looked like a real wedding party going down Mission street, saying it was a happy, positive message to display to Mission residents. Marcos Gutierrez, publicist for Segovia's, felt it was important to make this passage through "the worst part of the Mission, in order to show residents that this area deserves to be revitalized, not abandoned."

Gutierrez wants to promote more marriages between non-profits and local businesses, as he feels it is a sure way to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood while helping the area realize its full potential as a safe, profitable place to own a business.

*Segovia's is located at 2434 Mission St. (between 20th and 21st) and open for dinner Tuesday to Saturday 5:30 to 9:30, for lunch Tuesday to Friday and on Sunday for brunch 10 to 2. For reservations call 282-7657.*



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# 24th Street's Window on Asia

## China Books Spans Four Decades

by Cameron Shaw

Walking along 24th Street in the Mission on a glaring sunny day, you pass tamale parlors, Mexican bakeries, and liquor stores. A souped-up, chromed-out, fiery red banana-seat bike floats by with colored streamers blowing in a breeze that smells of sugary pastries. Then, thinking about chilled melon juice, you bump into a sidewalk display of little straw Chinese figures: you're outside China Books and Periodicals.

China Books sits comfortably beneath a beautiful Precita Eyes mural depicting a cooperative farming effort. Since 1960, the shop has provided historical and fictional publications about China from China. In doing so it has established itself as a unique cultural bridge between China and the rest of the world. One reason Henry Noyes opened China Books in the Mission is that it was his goal to introduce China to the non-Chinese. Now, in the words of his son, Chris Noyes, "It's a great place to be!"

While offering a specialized collection of books to the community, China Books supplies scholars, libraries, bookstores, and the government with thousands of titles through a much larger catalogue business.

Henry Noyes, born in China in 1910 to Presbyterian missionary parents, started China Books and Periodicals in Chicago. A former English professor-turned-writer/machinist, Noyes observed that many reports on China were distorted and pro-imperialist and came exclusively from Hong Kong. He applied for a license to import publications from China, aware of the unique business opportunity and the chance to provide America (and the world) access to what he knew to be a wonderful culture. After miles of red tape and fines, an importation pathway was established.



China Books founder Henry Noyes. Photo by Cameron Shaw.

Noyes, his wife, Gertrude, and his two children, Nicolette and Chris, ran the business through the '60s. In 1967, after years of serving the academic community, China Books had a runaway best-seller: The Little Red Book (Quotations from Chairman Mao). The national media recognition from sales and expanding diplomatic ties between the United States and China stimulated business for China Books and allowed it to grow.

Now, with a multiracial staff of around 30, Chris and Nicolette Houseman manage the business. Like their father, both are committed to fostering greater communication between China and the United States. In addition, they are active in the Mission community.

Although most of the publications in the store are in English or Chinese, China Books serves the Latino community by carrying a few books like *Mi Primer Libro de Dichos* (My First Book of Parables) for

children as well as several contemporary Spanish authors. They also carry Spanish/English dictionaries, health guides in Spanish, guides to city schools, and copies of the U.S. citizenship exam booklet.

Noyes encourages community residents to request titles. In fact, one local doctor requested a Spanish language book on acupuncture and moxibustion so that he could eventually teach it; the store ordered it for him.

When you get down to it, China Books has an unimaginable quantity of books on China. Unimaginable because unless you have chosen to learn about China, you probably haven't picked up much through

party talk (small "p"). Not too many people go there for vacation, MTV doesn't do live broadcasts from there, and few people travel there on business. What information that is disseminated through the media focuses on international politics, human rights issues, or environmental issues.

Thankfully, China Books is here to fill the void. I asked Henry Noyes to make a few suggestions for people who would like to introduce themselves to this 5000-year-old country of over a billion people:

- reporting current independent news, *China Today* offers monthly stories on all aspects of life in China
- for the visually stimulated, *China Pictorial* prints world-class photography of Chinese landscapes and peoples
- *The Great Wall* details the history and areas covered by the ancient wonder of the world
- *Opium War to Revolution* chronicles the events that have shaped Chinese culture in the last century.

Whatever aspect of China you are interested in, China Books has it or will get it for you. For 36 years, China Books has offered an opportunity to look beyond the trendy attitudes toward the vast and diverse Chinese nation. It opened during polarized times and still stands for acceptance and understanding between cultures. Perhaps that's another reason why it's in the Mission.

China Books and Periodicals (282-2994)  
2929 24th St, <http://www.chinabooks.com>.

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## Guest Opinion

## Smith &amp; Hawken Sucks!

*Editor's note: The following open letter to Smith & Hawken ran in the August issue of The New Fillmore, a fellow member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association. Because the increasing growth of chain stores is a controversial matter in every neighborhood in San Francisco, we are reprinting it here.*

July 11, 1996

Rachel Mercer  
Advertising Dept.  
SMITH & HAWKEN  
117 East Strawberry Drive  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Dear Rachel,

It was certainly galling to The New Fillmore and its neighborhood supporters to have its core market of 40,000 readers, that it reaches in the immediate vicinity of your store be passed over in favor of the Nob Hill Gazette and the Bay Guardian in advertising your opening on Fillmore Street.

I was led to believe that Smith and Hawken had a corporate value system that included supporting the communities you do business in, and I'm a little curious as to why that seems to leave out supporting the paper that for the last 10 years has formed the very foundation of that community here.

I find it a little ironic that when your store manager made a presentation to the merchants association here he said he was

pleased to assure them that Smith and Hawken was "not just another Gap." The irony is that Don Fisber and The Gap in the last few years have consistently used advertising to support neighborhood papers -- not just The New Fillmore but 10 other neighborhood papers in San Francisco -- because Don realizes that beatby neighborhood papers and the sense of community they create are vital to the economic well-being of the neighborhoods in which he does business and wishes to continue to do business. These papers are also facing a regrettable trend in which independent merchants such as the one that occupied the store you now occupy who did advertise in neighborhood papers are being replaced by chains stores like Smith and Hawken, that do not advertise in neighborhood papers, thereby eroding the base of neighborhood community.

There is a growing hostility toward chain stores in San Francisco, and you have done your company no service by creating the impression with myself and consequently with my voluble colleagues in the neighborhood newspaper community that you are at best indifferent to supporting the kind of community they represent. Would that your actions were consistent with the friendly, community-oriented message you seek to promulgate.

Sincerely,  
David Isb  
Publisher  
The New Fillmore

cc: Kathy Tierney  
President, Smith & Hawken

## UPS Backs Cop Bike Fleet



Photo by Dan Fox

United Parcel Service has generously donated \$1200 to the Mission Police District for the purchase of additional mountain bicycles for the station's bicycle fleet. UPS previously contributed \$2500 for gym equipment at the new station. Eventually the Mission will have 20 officers

patrolling the neighborhood on bicycles. Pictured above are Dominique Wirtz and Rosalee Gonsolin of UPS, Mission Station Captain Al Casciato, and Officer Lois Perillo, San Francisco's first bicycle cop.

## Journalism Students Wanted

The Journalism Department at City College of San Francisco has changed. We have always taught traditional newspaper reporting, but this semester we have increased our scope by adding two new working journalists. One will teach electronic pagination; the other will teach copyediting and proofreading. To better support our classes we have refurbished the classroom and acquired additional computers and a large-format printer.

If you are a motivated, hardworking, talented student, we want you. First we'll teach you the basics: electronic research in the new library, the nuts and bolts of layout and design at the Graphic Com-

munications Department, and writing in the Broadcasting Department. Then, during your final semesters, we will put your talents to use on our award-winning newspaper, The Guardsman.

If you are already working in journalism you may be interested in developing additional skills such as online research with Lexus and Nexus, editorial management, or design. Certificate and degree programs are available.

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**Urban Gardening**  
by Elizabeth Platt

**W**arm weather will be with us for a few more months, but now is the time to plan and start planting your winter garden. Our mild climate allows us to grow something (besides weeds) in our gardens year-round. For the winter months, think greens: this is when a lot of those chi-chi mesclun mix greens can be grown. With proper care, they will provide you with salad greens until the end of spring -- maybe even later. This is also the time of year to put in transplants of the various cabbage family plants, some for winter harvest and some to overwinter for early spring harvest.

But before you fill up every square foot of garden space with winter veggies, think ahead a bit. Do you want to plant any bare-root trees or perennials early next year? These need go into the ground as early as January, so consider leaving some space for them so you won't have to tear out any plants (or you could just eat lots and lots of salad).

While your summer garden will bask in our late-season sunshine, be prepared to shelter any fall and winter seedlings from the beat. One blast-furnace day can shrivel and kill the poor wee things, and you may not have time to start (or buy) new transplants to replace them. Nothing fancy is needed; just a milk crate or wooden produce tray inverted over the seedlings will keep the sun from cooking them.

Set out transplants of broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower.

If you make sure they don't get too much heat, you can plant peas for fall harvest this month. This includes shelling peas, snap peas, and snow peas. (Peas for overwintering can go in a bit later in the year.)

All those gourmet greens you can plant now include: arugula (rocket), corn salad (lamb's lettuce or mache), endive (escarole), chicory (radicchio), and mustard greens. Lettuce and spinach can also be planted, as can Swiss chard, which can be cooked or used raw in salads. A number of Asian greens can also be planted, including bok choy, Chinese (Napa) cabbage, and Asian mustard (such as mizuna).

Other veggies: carrots; collard greens, kohlrabi, parsnip, potatoes, radishes (both the small salad type, and winter radish), turnips, kale, and rutabaga. Don't worry too much about the coming cold weather -- some winter veggies, such as kale and parsnips, actually taste better after getting hit by a little frost.

If you're still a bit hesitant about trying your hand at winter gardening, check out this month's garden lecture from SLUG, "The New Gourmet Garden," featuring author and teacher Pam Pierce, who will give you a rundown on what to grow and when and how to grow it. The lecture will be held Saturday, August 10, 10 a.m. - noon at SLUG's Garden for the Environment, 7th and Lawton Streets (Inner Sunset). \$5 for SLUG members, \$8 for non-members. For information, call 285-SLUG.



# Gallery Notes

## New Gallery Blasts Off "Go Unnoticed"

On Thursday, August 8th, the new Balazo (The Blast) Gallery, specializing in artists of the Americas will open its doors for its inaugural show. The opening will be a blast for the heart of the Mission, a show featuring the conflicts and passions of over thirty local artists with roots in Mexico and all over the world. Balazo Gallery offers a spectacular diversity of

histories, content and styles of expression united in the dynamic power that will accompany the initiation of this new venue in the oh so cosmopolitan Barrio of the Arts. Balazo Gallery curator-in-chief and notorious San Francisco impresario Mario Joel, told New Mission News, "This is the big one; this is it!" Balazo Gallery is located at 2811 Mission, near 24th St.

by Brian Doohan

The perspectives of Latinos and Latinas on immigration is the topic of "Go Unnoticed," an exhibit of images of (re)generation that runs at the Galeria de la Raza through August 10.

Galeria de la Raza launched the (Re)Generation Project in 1994 to support an emerging generation of artists and cultural workers committed to socially and politically engaged art. "Go Unnoticed," the gallery's fourth exhibition this year, features more than 30 young artists, performers, and writers.

"The idea that something is unnoticed has a lot of implications for the immigrant experience," said Olivia Armas, coordinator of the (Re)Generation Project. "While immigrants are scapegoated for society's problems, their contributions often go unnoticed."

Galeria de la Raza is located at 24th Street near Bryant, where it's hard not to notice the UFO-sombrero mural by Kenny Huerta featured on the cover of this issue. "We didn't know it would be mistaken for Independence Day!" Armas said.

San Jose artist Hector Mendoza's "El Huesito" depicts a bone dangling on a string above four starving dogs. In his artist's statement Mendoza says, "We disregard and never even question who is

holding the other end of the rope where el huesito is dangling from."

(Re)Generation artists are primarily from the Bay Area and Mexico, but the exhibit also includes artists from Chile, Colombia, and El Salvador. Most of the works are on canvas, but works on video and the newly ubiquitous CD-ROM are also present. Other installations include two medicine chests and a fortune teller's parlor.

Some of the works have religious or political themes. In one work, the University of California regents are depicted as Ku Klux Klan members. Another work shows a border shooting-gallery. "Chuparosa" by Elizabeth Gomez, a Mexican woman who is a student at San Jose State University, depicts a man and woman in formal attire, with roses and the hummingbirds mentioned in the title.

Raul Aguilar, also from Mexico, prepared his "Fifth Sun" in the form of an ancient codex. On one side of the manuscript is an account of the journey of the Mexicans from Aztlan to the Valley of Anahuac; on the other is a contemporary immigrant's account of his return voyage.

"Go Unnoticed" runs at Galeria de la Raza (2857 24th Street) through August 10, when a closing-day party starting at 4 p.m. will feature performances, poetry, and fortune-telling. For exhibit information, call 826-8009.

## Stolen/Borrowed Robado/Prestado



This sculpture was taken from the Mission Cultural Center's Labor Union Exhibition.

Please, if you have information about this "lost" art piece contact Daniel del Solar (415-821-1155) No questions asked, just get it back.

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# GANGSPEAK



## Houses of Healing

by Robert Fraijo Soto

*The Houses of Healing*, by Robin Casarjian, is a prisoner's guide to inner power and freedom. I was working in a volunteer position at the San Francisco County jails when I was invited to attend a staff meeting. During that meeting, one of the counselors described his experience with his group and detailed how one of the group's members had experienced a very emotional reaction after following the self analysis inventory found in *Houses of Healing*. He stated how it had profoundly affected his attitude and his vision of life both in the past and the present.

I asked for the author's name and was told I could get a copy from the sheriff's office. Reading *Houses of Healing* has been like taking a course on who you are. For prisoners it can be a long winding road from childhood to prison. Its written exercises can be the beginning of the recovery process. Prison is the least likely place where people feel safe to open up

and share their innermost thoughts and experiences. The survival instinct is to put up more walls and to barricade yourself against everyone including yourself.

In order to know your true self, you need to go back and look at how you became the person you are today. It is hard and often painful to look back at your childhood. At the root of most immoral behavior is unhealed anger, rage, grief, guilt, and shame from childhood violence. Though it is sad, I feel the state of California was my mother and the Department of Corrections my father.

As I continued reading this book, I found myself evaluating my own life. The following exercises are examples in how *Houses of Healing* can be a powerful tool for self-discovery and for recovery.

### Exercise A:

1946: My elementary school days start at nine years of age in Juvenile Hall. I went on to junior high school at the County Forestry Camp. High school was at the California Youth Authority, Norwalk Center at Paso Robles. In 1955 I graduated from high school (Preston School of Industry) at the top of my class.

1956: I entered junior college at Tracy Gladiator School, where I took liberal arts classes and eventually graduated with a

B.A. I went on to study at Chino, C.M.C. East, Soledad. I graduated with a master's degree from San Quentin. I came back for post graduate studies and received my Ph.D. at Folsom Prison State University. I was paroled March 7, 1974. At the time, the University of Pelican Bay was not built, otherwise it too would be part of my credentials.

### Exercise B:

When the umbilical cord that connects us to our mother is cut at birth, physically each of us becomes our own separate person. Yet a psychic cord often made of anger, resentment, guilt, shame, and blame remains connected. During all the years at the Pinta (Joint) I was held as an emotional hostage to my past. My real parents are no longer living, but for me, emotionally and spiritually, they are very much alive. I have researched them, and I have come to know them very well. I like what I've found. I love them a lot. Whatever the circumstances were that prevented them from being there when I needed them, I forgive them.

### Exercise C:

Recently, in my quest for knowledge of my past, I discovered my father's rich ancestral history; I am very proud to be a part of it. My great-great grandparents, Gregorio and Francisco Fraijo, moved around for some years and ultimately settled down in 1871 when they purchased some land from Henry Dalton, owner of Rancho Azusa in southern California. They had a farm and raised livestock and gave some of the land to their children. Today this land is the city of Irwindale. Hundreds of Fraijos live there and we get together each year to celebrate our wonderful Mexican Heritage.

### Exercise D:

It was painful for my mother to go to court and watch her son receive a prison sentence. A high school graduate, she worked as a stenographer. She was the only Mexican to graduate from Whittier Union High School in 1933. She was just nine years old when my grandfather and grandmother brought her and her brother to this country from Mexico. My grandfather worked very hard so his

children could be educated. My Uncle Frank enlisted in the United States Air Force and became an officer and a fighter pilot.

### Postscript:

I have been married now for 20 years, and I have two fine children who are attending Catholic schools. I know this would make my parents very proud, as would the fact that I am now enrolled and attending college.

*Houses of Healing* was the beginning of a profound and positive journey of self-discovery that has resulted in my feeling significantly less conflict and confusion in my life, and much greater peace, power, and freedom.

## GANGSPEAK SPEAKS

**Sorry, We Lost Your Poem:** A few months ago we received a poem that, regrettably, was lost. Please send it again, whoever you are!

**To all our incarcerated homies:** We dedicate this month's column to you. Though you may not hear from us often -- as we are caught up in this rat race out here -- we think of you often. You are in our prayers always. We love and miss you. Send us your stories of what it is like for you in prison. We need these stories. We need the wisdom from your experiences. With your light from the darkness we can possibly envision a brighter future.

**A Special Note: Dreamer!** We love you!

**Gang Members:** This is your column. This is your voice. Send your words, poems, rap songs, essays, and art to: Deanne Berger-Moudgil, Gangspeak Column Editor, c/o New Mission News, 777 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Call Deanne at 864-531 or page her at 227-6338.

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# Another Deadbeat For President

by Frank Deadbeat

After my stunning defeat in the 1995 San Francisco mayoral election, you might think I'd had enough of politics -- and you'd be right. I'm just as sick and tired of the whole freaking shell game as you are. But as you might recall, one of my campaign promises was to *put an end to politics once and for all*. And judging by the way this presidential race is shaping up, I'd say that promise is more promising than ever. That's why, despite overwhelming odds, and against the professional advice of a highly trained team of clinical psychologists (who are probably looking all over the hospital for me right now, wondering how I could have possibly escaped, considering my thorazine dosage), I am once again throwing my head into the ring and declaring my candidacy for president of the United States of America.

Looking at the issues I addressed and the promises I made while running for mayor, I must say that I can find no fault with any of them, save one: my ideas were much too grand to be contained by a single city. In order to be fully realized, such vast ideas, such sweeping social and political reforms, demand a much larger canvas. I mean, what good is creating my own private utopia in one small burg when the Feds can queer the whole deal at any time by calling in the National Guard and/or the black helicopters?

Obviously, to put such comprehensive policies as mine into effect would require full power of enforcement without interference, i.e., the complete and unswerving loyalty of the Imperial Legions. So before going any further, I would like to take this opportunity to salute the brave men and women serving in every branch of the armed forces and to promise them unlimited access to drugs and teenage whores when I am elected president.

Now that you have some notion of my generosity as a leader, the rest of my political platform should come as no



surprise. Every plank of that platform is the result of closely analyzing and then boldly addressing the needs, concerns, and worries of you, the American people,

the average, decent, hard-working citizens of this great nation.

It's the economy, stupid.

Corporate downsizing, outsourcing,

massive layoffs; increasing corporate dependence on foreign sweatshops and domestic temps; the ever-shrinking availability of decent-paying jobs, coupled with the ever growing cost of housing and food and the ever increasing likelihood that Social Security won't be around in 20 years... What does it all add up to? Massive economic insecurity. I hear more and more people asking, "What's going to happen to me?"

As emperor (uh, I mean president), I intend to answer that question, and to eliminate the insecurity that plagues so many of you. Under my regime, *none of you will ever have to worry about housing or food again, because these things will be provided to you free of charge -- and there'll be plenty of work for everyone!*

OK, I know what you're thinking: "He's a goddamn communist!" Wrong again, peasants. I'm not talking about communism or socialism or any of that idealistic crap. I draw my inspiration not from this century, but from an ancient institution that endured for thousands of years, and that collapsed only because of factors the ancients were too ignorant to control. The benevolent and paternal institution I intend to resurrect, and to expand far beyond its former scope so that every man, woman, and child in this country will be cared for and employed from cradle to grave. What is it called? I'll give you a hint. Starts with an s. Ends with a y. Seven letters.

While you're racking your little plebeian brains for the answer, I'll be hard at work on next month's column, in which I will delineate specific aspects of my program. In the meantime, friends, don't worry about a thing. Very soon, all your modern problems will be solved; there'll be an end to politics, and no one will be whipped or pilloried, I promise you, as long as they behave themselves and do what Massah tells them.

Trust me, people. I'll be a *gooooo* daddy!

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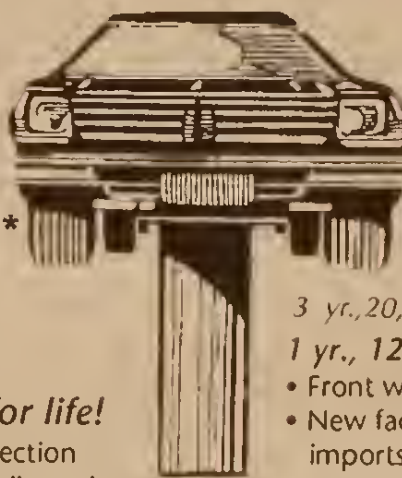
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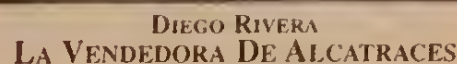
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